Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Developments, Extension of Peace Talks Reported

Palestinian Warns of 'Overoptimism'

TA0405134693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 May 93 p 1

[By Salah al-Zuhaykah]

[Text] Washington—Ahmad Tahbub, member of the human rights committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, has said that the steps carried out with the start of the ninth round of peace talks, such as the repatriation of some of the deportees and the participation of Jerusalem and the diaspora in the negotiations, are considered progress but one should not indulge in overoptimism.

Tahbub s.ressed that fundamental progress in the peace process requires Israel to acknowledge Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the terms of reference of the peace process, to consider Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the occupied territories, and to stop settlement in all its forms. Israel's peace inclinations contradict developments on the ground.

Tahbub asked: How can one trust the Israeli Government that it is seeking peace when it closes East Jerusalem to worshipers?

Refugees, Housing Major Topics

JN0405120893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 May 93 p 25

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] A ranking Palestinian official has told AL-DUSTUR that one of the major topics under discussion in Washington between the Palestinians and Israelis— in addition to self-rule and the transfer of power being the main basis for the negotiations—is the issue of Palestinian refugees and the high-rise housing projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip aimed at obsorbing residents of Palestinian camps inside the occupied territories.

He added that the more important issue is the political future of the self-rule areas, something which will involve Jordan, and the forming of a Palestinian police force. He noted that approximately 30,000 Palestinian elements are being trained in some Arab and foreign countries, with whom the Israelis want to cooperate during the first stages of self-rule. The Palestinians meanwhile insist on their independence, taking into consideration the importance of cooperation between these forces and Arab security forces, especially in Jordan and Egypt.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said that the U.S. peace deal which is being talked about, is based on a "Marshall plan" to revive the region within a comprehensive development plan for Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and both the Arab and Israeli sections of Palestine. The United States, the European countries, Japan, and the Arab Gulf states will contribute to this plan.

He said that the living problems of Palestinian refugees in Arab countries will be solved within a comprehensive development plan which is being prepared through studies conducted by countries concerned with the Middle East peace process. According to the U.S. plan, the Middle East will become an integrated economic region linked to Europe, through Turkey, by land and sea tranportation routes and railroad lines.

Information conveyed by [delegation members] Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Sami al-Khatib to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis indicates that the United States has presented an integrated plan for Arab-Israeli peace. This plan is based on one that was drawn up by former U.S. President [Ronald] Reagan with some modifications on issues dealing with Jerusalem, which, based on a U.S. desire, remains outside the framework of discussion between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. This is because discussion of the Jerusalem issue will obstruct the negotiations due to essential differences between the two sides since the Israelis insist that Resolution 242 does not apply to Jerusalem.

The senior Palestinian official revealed that some of the deportees who recently returned to the occupied territories will be included in the structure of the Palestinian self-rule council. He added that these returned deportees will cooperate with members of the negotiating team and technical committees to draw up the general outlines of the structure of the various Palestinian institutions and the means to transfer power from the Israeli occupation authorities to the self-rule body.

Jordan's al-Majali 'More Optimistic'

TA0405140393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 May 93 p 3

[Report by Dan Avidan in Washington]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the political negotiations, yesterday told DAVAR that in his opinion the Israeli Government should make additional goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians this week in order to add momentum to the negotiations on that track, noting this would also promote the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. As an example for such gestures, al-Majali mentioned the need to bring back another group of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to the territories, and to let more veteran PLO deportees return.

In a short interview with DAVAR, al-Majali expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the Israeli-Palestinian track, which, he claimed, was made possible by the return of 30 veteran deportees. He said that was the reason his delegation would convene to hold more

serious discussions with the Israelis this week regarding the issues on the agenda. Last night the Jordanian and Israeli delegations met for another round of talks at the start of the second week of the negotiations.

Al-Majali said that his delegation intended to widen the debate with the Israeli team on issues pertaining to borders, refugees, energy, environment, banking, and more. He noted, nevertheless, that the rate of progress on the Israeli-Jordanian track would continue to be dependent on the progress made on the Israeli- Palestinian track.

Al-Majali said that an agreement between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations with regard to priorities among the issues on the already agreed upon agenda was of no significance, because the subcommittees were simultaneously discussing a variety of subjects. The Jordanians are apparently withholding their approval of the agenda until substantive progress is made in the Israeli-Palestinian track.

In conclusion, al-Majali reiterated that he was more optimistic than ever that the present round of talks would be successful, as a result of the goodwill gestures made by Israel.

Al-Majali denied reports that he may soon be appointed Jordan's new prime minister and that his place as delegation head would be taken by Fayiz al-Tarawinah, his deputy and Jordan's ambassador to the United States. Arab correspondents yesterday reported that the Zayd Bin-Shakir government would resign today or tomorrow and King Husayn would replace it with a new government, which would supervise the parliamentary elections scheduled for autumn.

Palestinians, Israelis Discuss Territories

TA0405193493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] At the peace talks in Washington today, Israel offered the Palestinians joint management of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza water resources under the interim settlement. The Palestinian response was affirmative. The two sides continued their effort toward a declaration of principles on the structure and authorities of the self-administration in the territories. It is unclear whether or not the talks will end this week, as demanded by some Arab delegations; the matter is to be settled tonight. Our Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] [passage omitted] Last night, the Israeli-Palestinian working group on human rights held a meeting at which the Palestinians submitted a 12-point paper focusing on the issues of deportees and closure, with an emphasis on the closure's impact on East Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Yosi Gal, Israeli delegate to talks with Palestinians] A new atmosphere prevails in the negotiations with our Palestinian colleagues. Their willingness to embark on discussions in the framework of formal working groups definitely shows that the negotiations have entered a new stage. Each of the three working groups is in the midst of discussions on the very substance of the negotiations.

[Stern] The most serious negotiations were conducted with Jordan. Today the permanent delegations were joined by experts in the fields of water, economy, energy, and environmental issues. Israel and Jordan share many problems in these fields, and the discussions were serious and businesslike.

Last night the Jordanians invited all the Arab delegations to celebrate King Husayn's 40th year on the throne at the Washington Hilton. The Israelis were not invited, but the Israeli delegation sent the king congratulations and wishes of health and a speedy recovery through their Jordanian colleagues.

Satisfactory progress was achieved in today's talks with the Syrians, after Ambassador Rabinovich addressed the Syrian foreign minister's and Syrian media statements about a deadlock. He quoted Prime Minister Rabin's speech, which welcomed the Syrian reference to a full peace. Rabinovich also informed the Syrians that the progress with the Palestinians was not made at the expense of the negotiations with Syria. The Israeli explanation enabled the two sides to make progress to the point where they almost completed drafting the introduction to the problematic clause dealing with peace, security, and withdrawal. Outwardly, however, the Syrians are still grumbling. [passage omitted]

It should be noted at this point, the middle of the second week of the talks, that the peace debates have entered a stage where everyone talks to the point. All the external manifestations of discord, such as arguments over the inclusion of East Jerusalem or diaspora representatives, belong to the past. The sides are now preoccupied with the usual monotonous work done by committees everywhere in the world.

The question that remains open is whether Syrian pressure will force the Arabs to return home this week, or whether they will stay another week. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 4 May in a similar report adds: "the Israeli team negotiating with Lebanon this evening presented a new working document aimed at achieving progress in talks between the two parties. Members of the two delegations refused to give details of the proposal and denied reports that Israel has expressed its readiness to discuss a withdrawal from south Lebanon at this stage."]

Syria's al-'Allaf on Progress

JN0505072993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has said that he noticed no real progress in the position of the Israelis despite serious discussions today dealing with important topics.

In a statement following the meeting, al-'Allaf said: The discussions continued to revolve around the Syrian document, specifically the fifth item, related to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He added that many things were discussed in connection with basic principles and major issues.

Asked about the points discussed in relation to this item of the Syrian document, he said they finished discussing the introduction of the item, and that details of the steps and necessary means to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 will be discussed tomorrow, in addition to the principles on which the peace process is based.

He added that when they discuss the details tomorrow, it will become clear whether there is a real change in the Israeli position or not.

On whether he could say that today's meeting was better than the previous meetings in this round, al-'Allaf said: It is not a matter of better or worse than other sessions. Despite engaging in serious issues, we have still not felt any real progress in Israel's position.

Asked whether the lack of progress would make it impossible to extend the current round, al-'Allaf said: Extending the round has nothing to do with what happens in each separate track. This is something for the Arab parties to consult about when a suggestion is made in this regard to them, so that they can take a united stand. He noted that the Arab delegations, in their coordination meeting at the Syrian delegation's residence today, will discuss whether there are reasons to extend the round.

Lebanon's Shammas Calls Talks 'Delicate'

NC0505062593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] At yesterday's session between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Washington, Lebanon rejected Israeli proposals that skirt the negotiations and avoid the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, the head of the Lebanese delegation, said the talks in the past two days dealt with substantial issues and were delicate, difficult, and complicated. He noted that the Israeli side put forward ideas and proposals and tried to peddle them as new. There were some new points in these ideas and we addressed them with care and understanding. But eventually, the Israelis reverted to their basic position. Naturally, we also reverted to our basic and firm position: Israel should end its occupation and withdraw completely from Lebanese territory to the internationally recognized border. He said: We followed the negotiations' full course. The Israeli delegation then decided to put forward a new proposal.

Shammas said that at the outset of the session, he handed the Israeli side a detailed list of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons in Israel or in the occupied Arab territories, because in the previous session they heard the names. It was not easy for them to recognize the names from recorders. It was something new for us to broach this issue again and to ask the Israeli side to grant the request. Shammas said the Israeli side submitted a request regarding the Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon. We will deal with their request carefully, he said.

Arabs Decide To Extend Talks

JN0505061593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Arab delegates to the peace talks have decided to extend their current round of peace talks with Israel for a third week but warned that the peace process was not making enough progress.

Syria's chief negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf told reporters that he and the heads of the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Lebanese delegations had taken a decision but would not announce it until they had informed the United States and Russia, cosponsors of the peace process.

More on Decision To Extend

JN0505082593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Washington, 5 May (SANA)—The heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks held their second coordination meeting of the current ninth round at the headquarters of the Syrian delegation.

At the meeting, the chief delegates reviewed the results of the bilateral talks since the round began on 27 April.

Following the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said: The chief delegates' common feeling is that though there are serious discussions on most tracks, the results that could have been realized are much below the expectations, especially in light of the promises that this ninth round would be fruitful, and that speedy progress would take place to make up for the long period in which the rounds of talks stopped as a result of the Israeli obstacles.

Al-'Allaf added: We hope that this promised progress will take place on all fronts during the remaining period of this round. Answering a question on whether this round would be extended after 6 May, the date originally set for its end, al-'Allaf said: The heads of delegations studied this subject and adopted the appropriate decision, which will be announced after the cosponsors of the peace conference are informed of it.

Al-'Allaf was asked about the reports which spoke about U.S. President Bill Clinton's intention to meet with heads of the delegations to the peace talks. He replied: We have not received an official invitation to meet with President Clinton yet.

Declaration of Principles Said Possible

TA0505060593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] We open our program with a report from Washington about what would appear to be slow but optimistic progress. The assessment in Washington is that the peace talks will continue next week as well. It seems that the Palestinian delegation brought pressure to bear on the other Arab delegations to continue the talks. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, said in an interview with IDF Radio that a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles may be attained yet in this round of talks. Qeren Neubach reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Neubach] The Israeli delegation in Washington is getting ready for another week of talks. Although the Arabs have not yet issued an official announcement to this effect, it is estimated that the talks will continue next week as well. It seems it was the Palestinians who pressured the Arabs to stay in Washington in a bid to formulate a joint declaration of principles with Israel.

Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and a special adviser to the Palestinian delegation, stated last night in an interview with IDF Radio that he believes there is a real possibility that the sides may succeed in attaining a declaration of principles this time.

[Sha'th, in English] I think we—I don't want to raise expectations very high—I think it is quite possible that we can this time come up with a declaration of principles. We are working hard at it. The Israelis are, at least, really showing positive signs of willingness to negotiate in a good faith. And, it seems to be that also the Americans are interested in it.

[Neubach translates the above and continues] Sha'th went on to elaborate on the immediate benefits the Palestinian delegation will reap from the attainment of a declaration of principles with Israel. Such an agreement, Sha'th said, would break through the stalemate on the question of legislation, elections, land, and the linkage between the interim and permanent arrangements in the territories. In his opinion, such an agreement can be attained with a great deal of good will and hard work, and when it is attained it will be a substantial achievement that the Palestinian delegation will be able to present to the inhabitants of the territories.

[Sha'th, in English] You would expect that of these four matters we would be, we are—I mean, I don't want to say close; I would say it's do-able. I mean, with some hard work and good will, it is do-able. When it does come, obviously the delegation can point to its people: Finally, we have substantive progress, and not only CBM's [confidence-building measures].

[Neubach] Sha'th, who sounded optimistic throughout the interview, remarked on the good atmosphere in the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, as well as on the new relations of trust created between the Americans and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 May adds: "In yesterday's session, Israel and Jordan decided to set up three working groups: one will deal with water, environment, and energy issues; another will deal with border security and the components of peace; and the third will deal with economic and cooperation issues."]

Al-Husayni: PLO Involvement Inevitable

JN0505100893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 93 p 29

[By Muhammad Dalbah]

[Excerpts] Washington—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the Arab-Israeli settlement talks, has said that sooner or later the Israeli prime minister will have no choice but to directly deal with the PLO and with its Chairman Yasir 'Arafat personally. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Husayni said the taboo with regard to holding meetings with the PLO and 'Arafat has fallen. He added that he does not expect this to take place in a dramatic way, but gradually within a specific development.

Al-Husayni said: Contrary to some analyses that the PLO will end with the formation of a transitional autonomous government in the occupied territories, the PLO will dissolve itself only when the Palestinian state is established. Its role will then be similar to that of the Zionist Movement after Israel was established. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni added: The slogan of the new climate is not how to get rid of the enemy in front of us, but how to prepare a form of coexistence with the enemy in which we achieve as many rights as we can and make as few concessions as we can. He said: This is our battle and that of the Israelis. Each of us is trying to achieve as many gains as it can and make as few concessions as it can. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Reportedly To Allow Return of All Deportees

TA0405134093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—A prominent member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has refuted a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's spokesman on the significance and essence of the repatriation of 30 old-time Palestinian deportees to the occupied territories. Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said that Israel has promised the

Palestinian leadership to repatriate all Palestinian deportees whom it expelled from the occupied territories since their occupation in 1967.

Dr. al-Khatib added that the return of 30 deportees is merely the first of many subsequent batches, which upon completion will lead to the return of all the deportees whether those from 1967 or from Marj al-Zuhur. Dr. al-Khatib noted that the deportation file will never be closed except by the return of all the deportees, especially those in Marj al-Zuhur. [passage omitted]

Israeli Proposals Called 'Rehash' of Autonomy Plan

TA0405153793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 May 93 pp 1, 6

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed to AL-QUDS that the current round of bilateral talks in recent days has succeeded only in breaking the ice in the negotiating climate, not in the substance of negotiations. Hawatimah explained that what the Israelis have presented at the negotiating table is no more than a rehash of the same foundations on which the Israeli autonomy plan is based. Hawatimah said: This plan does not go beyond granting powers for municipal affairs administration. The plan focuses on administration and ignores legislation and sovereignty over land and does not incorporate all the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

Hawatimah explained that the Israeli Government is still adhering to its position based on the refusal to recognize the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip as occupied land to which international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338 apply, just as they apply to the other occupied Arab lands.

Hawatimah said that the Israeli side had also not come up with anything new regarding the issue of Jerusalem, deportation, commitment to full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, the right of return, and human rights—in implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Hawatimah called for rebuilding the negotiating process on bases conforming with the resolutions of international legitimacy. He also called for a comprehensive national dialogue so that this process would realize the national rights.

Commenting on the return of the 30 deportees, Hawatimah underscored to AL-QUDS his greetings upon the return of the 30 deportees, and said: We in the Democratic Front naturally welcome from the depth of our hearts the return of the 30 deportees who were banished from their homes.

At the same time, Hawatimah said that this event should not be referred to as a negotiating achievement. He stressed that it was a very small step by the Israeli authorities that will have no effect on the growing popular sentiment calling for withdrawal from the talks.

Ninth Round Seen as 'Last Chance for Peace'

TA0405150893 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 4 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Don't Misread Palestinian Attendance"]

[Text] Palestinians affirmed their seriousness in dealing with the current political process—again—when they decided to join the current ninth round of talks in Washington, despite the fact that most of their earlier stipulations were not met. Most prominent among these stipulations was the return of the nearly 400 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon last December.

The decision to join the ninth round, which was made contrary to the advice of the Palestinian delegation itself—and contrary to the general mood in the occupied territories—proved that the Palestinians wish to waste no opportunity to achieve peace in the region. By rejoining the negotiations, the Palestinians decision prevented a long stall of the political process.

This sincerity in the desire to achieve peace, however, should not be interpreted as a willingness to submit to Israeli dictations. Any such misreading will only subject the whole process to a fatal blow.

Achieving peace entails a desire that should be practically demonstrated on both sides, not just one. So far, measures taken by the occupation authorities don't indicate any such desire. The already month-long military siege imposed on the occupied territories—which prevents the Palestinian people under occupation from reaching occupied Arab Jerusalem, the heart of their homeland—and continues violations of Palestinian human rights cannot be taken as indicators of any Israeli desire for peace. In fact, these measures directly motivated the political street in the occupied territories to rally against the resumption of the negotiations.

Palestinians in the occupied territories have the right to ask, under the circumstances, whether it is peace that Israel is after, or subjugation and eternal slavery of the Palestinian people? If it is peace which the Israeli leaders are seeking, then why do they implement such measures, practice collective expulsion and continue their infamous acts? Why don't they prove their much-voiced talk about peace with a bit of practice?

Palestinian patience has come to a climax; the Palestinians can see that they are subjected to various oppressive measures under occupation and are simultaneously asked to make concessions. Their participation in the peace process will have to come to an end if the legitimate Palestinian rights are not recognized and met.

The ninth round may be the last chance for peace. If Israel does not show any willingness to implement international law, the current peace process will be meaningless, and a real waste of time. To avoid such a deplorable end, we believe that the U.S. Administration will have to play an honest role, and be firm about the need for Israel to abide by U.N. resolutions and respect human rights.

Representative Says Hamas Will Continue 'Escalation'

PM0405120093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 3

[Report on interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by 'Ali al-Salih in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Jordan, has said that information available to him reveals and proves that Yasir 'Arafat went to the negotiations without Palestinian backing, and that he did not heed the advice of members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, who all recommended nonparticipation in the ninth round of negotiations. Nazzal stressed that Hamas will continue the policy of escalation, confrontation, and resistance to the occupation, regardless of present political developments. He pointed out that Hamas is not part of the negotiation process and is not interested in what results from it.

Nazzal said: " 'Arafat went to Damascus to attend the meeting of the cordon states' ministers with a prior decision to participate as a result of pledges made by the Americans via the Egyptians. His attendance was merely a game to find an excuse and give the general impression that he decided to participate as a result of Arab pressures."

He added: "It became clear that 'Arafat was determined to participate. The Arab delegations would not have participated without Palestinian approval."

This came in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in his office in the Jordanian capital about the strategy which his movement and the Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process will pursue following the PLO's participation in the negotiations, which began in Washington last Tuesday.

It is worth noting that, after Ghassan al-Khatib and Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, representatives of the Palestinian People's Party (formerly Communist Party), suspended their participation in the negotiations, the only two factions participating—albeit indirectly—in the ninth round are Fatah, led by 'Arafat, and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], ving led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Nazzal said: "We have made contacts with some factions—the Palestinian People's Party (formerly Communist Party), the Democratic Front, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and some independent figures—to consult over ways of dealing with the new stage following the influential PLO leadership's transcendence of the issue of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees." Asked whether these contacts and consultations produced what could be termed a joint agreement to deal with this stage and the new developments, he said: "So far no strategic agreement has crystallized among the factions rejecting the peace process."

On his expectations with regard to the negotiations' outcome and whether they will produce tangible results, he said: "These negotiations could produce results, but the question being asked is: What kind of results?"

On the reports about Hamas' contacts with the 30 people expelled since 1967 whom Israel agreed to return to the occupied territories as part of the Palestinian conditions for participating in the negotiations—contacts aimed at persuading them to link their return with that of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees—Nazzal confirmed these contacts. However, he said that "some of the deportees concerned contacted us to explain their views and to acquaint themselves with our view." He added that "for our part, we told them that Hamas is in the process of studying this issue to crystallize an opinion to be announced later."

On the report published in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on a meeting held in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Government, attended by Hamas and the Palestinian factions opposed to the negotiations, Nazzal denied all knowledge of such a meeting. He said that "if such a meeting was held, Hamas was not invited."

Asked about the reasons which prompted Hamas to refuse to continue contacts with Fatah and the PLO despite their proposal to hold a meeting in Khartoum one day before the ninth round began, Hamas' representative in Jordan said: "We differentiate between meetings with Fatah and meetings with the PLO. A meeting with the latter must be within the framework of a comprehensive national dialogue. As for a meeting with Fatah, we adhere to the Khartoum agreement, which stipulates the continuation of the dialogue."

He went on: But in this political situation, in which 'Arafat has transcended the issue of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, we refuse to meet with Fatah.

On the existence of tension between supporters of his movement and of Fatah in the occupied territories and the possibility that this tension, so far characterized by self-restraint, could develop into a bloody confrontation, Nazzal confirmed what he termed political tension in the occupied territories. However, he added that "we are eager to prevent that tension from developing into a field confrontation." He stressed that Hamas regards Palestinian-Palestinian infighting as a forbidden thing in which we cannot engage. Nazzal completely rejected an accusation regarding threats to those who support the negotiations in the occupied territories. He said that "these accusations are untrue. It seems that there are quarters seeking to link Hamas' name to such practices."

Asked his opinion of what is being said about the formation of emergency squads organized by a group calling itself the Palestinian democratic youth union in the occupied territories to guard members of the Palestinian delegation participating in the negotiations and their families, homes, and property, he said: What emanates from these groups, some of which are real and others imaginary, shows that the threat is issued by one party and that the PLO leadership is behind it. It is a continuation of the blackmail and threat policy to which Hamas pays no attention.

Nazzal described the talk about the formation of a Palestinian police as "an attempt to indirectly blackmail and threaten Hamas and the Palestinian rejectionist forces. It is also premature." He went on: "We will continue the policy of confrontation and escalation against the occupation. When the Palestinian police idea is translated into real terms, we will talk about it then."

Source Warns Against Using Name of 10 Factions

TA0405145193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source in the occupied territories said that the 10 Palestinian factions did not issue any official statement calling for additional strikes other than their last statement, which called for a strike on 27 April, the day of the start of the ninth round of negotiations. The source warned against using the name of the 10 factions when issuing positions, something that will create confusion among the occupied territories' residents.

The source called on the residents not to be misled and not to respond to rumors that seek to create confusion. The residents should only adhere to official and clear decisions and calls.

Fatah Denies Dissolution of Forces in Territories

PM0405132893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Denies Dissolution of Its Strike Forces in Occupied Territories"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Fatah security source has denied what was said in a statement distributed in the occupied territories about the dissolution of the movement's military formations in the occupied territories. The source said that the opposite is true, and Fatah is reinforcing its positions and forces.

The security official's denial came while commenting on what was said in the statement, which bears the name of one of Fatah's military formations in the occupied territories and a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained.

The statement accuses Fatah's leadership in Tunis of issuing orders to Fatah's strike forces in the occupied territories, specifically the "Black Panthers" and "Fatah's Hawks," to suspend all military operations, dissolve all their military formations, and mobilize commanders and fedayeen to empty their secret depots of all the various arms collected over more than 20 years, whether by selling or getting rid of them. The statement said that these orders come while other factions are seeking to collect and purchase arms at very high prices.

It is worth noting that the strike forces have played a major role in the intifadah and armed resistance operations and in fighting the occupation forces and liquidating Palestinians who collaborate with the authorities.

The security source, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Fatah's leadership has issued no orders in this connection, and that such statements are designed to distort the movement's struggle.

The official revealed that the movement—contrary to what the statement said—is reinforcing its military position and has increased the budget allocated for this purpose in the occupied territories.

The statement accused the leadership of reducing allocations and denying military formations their budgets.

Human Rights Initiatives in Territories Urged

TA0405173793 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Now, the Talks Have Begun"]

[Text] With the start of the second week of the ninth round in Washington, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's official spokesman considers that what had preceded this round was not anything resembling negotiations and that the real negotiations have started now. In the same vein, Faysal al-Husayni says that there are "signs" indicating that "something" will happen this week in Washington through the talks!

So, what are those signs? And what is that "something" which will happen soon? And what are the boundaries and meanings of "reality" in the negotiations at the ninth round?

These are questions worth considering. In order to answer them, one can rely on the topics and major issues on which the talks have begun to concentrate. Among those topics are issues relating to land and water, others pertain to defining the concept of self- administration, and the third is the issue of human rights in the occupied territories. Those topics or issues are necessarily interlinked, which in sum mean an end to the occupation and realization of our people's legitimate rights in accordance with the agreed upon resolve to establish peace over this land.

This linkage, however, does not mean the slightest negligence in the inevitable serious and quick discussion of the human rights issue in particular. Daily Israeli practices and measures in the occupied territories seek, for

their part, to stifle and preempt all "positive" chances through continuation of the blockade, closure, and siege.

If "a good climate" reportedly is prevailing at the negotiating table in Washington, it is essential and important to enhance that negotiating climate by transferring the same climate to the occupied territories here. This will not happen except through serious action to immediately implement the human rights conventions in the occupied territories, which among other things should include lifting of the siege.

Aid Package Said Drawn Up for Territories

TA0405134993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 May 93 p 1

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—AL-QUDS has learned that during the meetings of the multilateral peace conference economic committee, the EC, in cooperation with the United States and the Arab Gulf states, will present a massive aid program for the occupied Palestinian territories.

Aid to the occupied territories will be in the form of an immediate and initial payment of $30 million and long-term assistance in the amount of $1 billion to be distributed within five years.

Moreover, the committee is to discuss a large number of development projects that will include the spheres of tourism, industry, services, and the establishment of data banks in order to make it easier for investors to understand the real condition of the Palestinian economy.

The development economic committee meetings are to begin this morning in Rome with the participation of 46 delegations from the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Returning Jerusalem Mayor Interviewed on Issues

NC0505074093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 5 May 93

[Telephone interview with Jerusalem Mayor Rawhi al-Khatib, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 4 May carried in the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome and congratulations on your return home.

[Al-Khatib] I salute Egypt and send my best wishes to it, the big sister, and to its president, government, and people. Congratulations to you and to us on the return of some of your deported brothers. God willing, they will be followed by other brothers, especially the brothers in Marj al-Zuhur. Our return yesterday was a dream for all of us. Throughout our exile—25 years in my case—our bodies were abroad but our souls never left Jerusalem. We closely followed events in our country and the injustice suffered by our people. The day they were given permission to return home, five of your brothers were killed and 55 were wounded. Regrettably, deportations, killing, and detention continue.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Khatib, does the return of some Palestinian deportees to their home represent a good step on the path toward building and cementing confidence between Israel and the Arab sides, particularly the Palestinian side?

[Al-Khatib] I see our return as the result of our people's steadfastness and sacrifices over 27 years. Recent Israeli acts, such as the deportation of 400 brothers to Marj al-Zuhur, the daily killings, and the West Bank and Gaza siege for a month or more provoked public opinion, particularly in the United States. The return of the deportees is also one of the signals accompanying the negotiations. It is not a sign of goodwill by Israel, but a result of its treatment of our people. The Israeli treatment of our people roused public opinion against the Israelis and brought about U.S. action. The United States and our brothers in the Arab countries, primarily Egypt, have been active in this.

[Al-Jundi] Before you were deported from Jerusalem, you headed Jerusalem's municipality.

[Al-Khatib] I remain—legally and internationally—a mayor of Jerusalem, that is, a head of Jerusalem's municipality. The United Nations, in its successive resolutions, has not recognized the annexation of Jerusalem or the Israeli measures that deviate from international laws and norms. The United Nations has ruled that all the measures taken by Israel in this regard were illegal, null and void. Among these is the dissolution of the Jerusalem Municipal Council, of which I am a chairman. So, from the international viewpoint, I remain Jerusalem mayor.

On Jerusalem: Regrettably, Israel has grabbed the opportunity and acted to alter its urban, social, and demographic features. In 1948, the Israelis represented 45 percent of Jerusalem's inhabitants. Now they represent 75 percent.

[Al-Jundi] On Jerusalem and the Israeli position considering unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, as mayor of holy Jerusalem, how do you view this Israeli approach?

[Al-Khatib] I believe no Arab accepts Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. No Muslim accepts this. The political situation dictates that the Arabs agree on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call on the Jews to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967, foremost among which is east Jerusalem. Implementing this resolution gives the Palestinian Arabs the right to establish a Palestinian state in the territories occupied in 1967, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and

primarily Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the Palestinian capital. Without this, I think there can be no peace negotiations now.

[Al-Jundi] In a statement after the return home of some Palestinian deportees, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said the dream of establishing a Palestinian state will soon come true. As a returning Palestinian, do you really believe a Palestinian state is near?

[Al-Khatib] My feeling is that continuing efforts are required to make the peace negotiations succeed on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. According to their text, things should lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, that is, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and primarily Jerusalem. These factors constitute a nucleus of the Palestinian state that brother Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] declared. I believe every Palestinian supports his efforts, especially as these are supported by all Arab and Islamic countries.

[Al-Jundi] Rawhi al-Khatib, the Voice of the Arabs thanks you and congratulates you on your safe return.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you.

Iran 'Disappointment' After Palestinian Conference

PM0505100893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Disappointment at End of Meeting of Organizations Opposed to Negotiations"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A conference held by Palestinian organizations opposed to the peace process ended in Tehran yesterday without issuing a final statement.

The conference, which lasted four days, was attended by nine organizations including Hamas, Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, which is led by Ahmad Jibril. A number of senior Iranian diplomatic, security, and military officials addressed the conference.

Iranian sources yesterday expressed "some disappointment" at the conference results.

Iran had hoped to be able to persuade the radical Palestinians to come up with a mechanism for coordination and cooperation with the aim of openly challenging "the PLO's claim that it represents the Palestinian people."

An Iranian Foreign Ministry source said "we did not achieve what we had hope for but we are still in the early stages of a long conflict."

DFLP, PFLP Deny Iran Proposed Alternative PLO

JN0505090693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May 93 p 16

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, have strongly denied reports that Iran proposed the idea that the Damascus-based 10 factions form a Palestinian leadership to replace the PLO leadership.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the PFLP Political Bureau, stressed that all that was proposed during the 10 factions' meeting focused on the various forms of popular struggle against administrative self-rule in the light of participation in the ninth round of talks.

Responding to a question, he said: Relations among the 10 factions are based on their agreement to oppose the current American-Israeli settlement plan and the attempt to impose administrative self-rule under Israeli sovereignty, in addition to their agreement on escalating the intifadah and confrontation of the Israeli occupation.

Malluh pointed out that numerous political differences exist among the 10 factions, most important of which is the way they view the PLO, the phases of struggle, Palestinian objectives, and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

He said: We rejected and will continue reject any policy undermining the PLO's standing as the sole representative of our people. We consider the PLO the most prominent national Palestinian accomplishment because it is the political entity of the Palestinian people everywhere.

Malluh added: We will resist any attempt to create an alternative to the PLO. This is because we differed and continue to differ with the policies of the leadership holding sway over the organization. We are not satisfied with the performance of the PLO institutions and are greatly concerned about the way a decision is made within the PLO bodies.

DFLP Political Bureau member Saji Salamah said the 10 factions' meeting in Damascus was a periodic meeting during which the latest political developments were discussed, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the impact of the Palestinian decision to attend the ninth round of talks. He stressed that the conferees did not receive any Iranian offer to form an alternative to the PLO leadership. He emphasized that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

He said the DFLP is one of the main pillars in this national edifice, which is unifying the Palestinian people on the basis of the national program which enjoys the support of the Palestinian masses in the territories and the diaspora. Salamah wondered how the DFLP, a basic faction in the PLO and the initiator of the phased program [not further identified], can seek an alternative leadership.

Responding to a question on President 'Arafat's release of $1 million of the DFLP's frozen assets in the Palestine National Fund, Salamah strongly denied that the Palestinian president had changed his attitude toward the DFLP, especially since he continues to insist on adopting a single-handed political and financial policy.

He said: The DFLP will continue its struggle for the sake of unifying the national Palestinian position on the basis of the Palestinian legitimacy resolutions, and for the sake of rebuilding the negotiations process on the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions. This, he said, requires that the political process currently taking place according to the American letter of invitation be halted because it is based on the autonomy plan and seeks to disunite the Palestinian people and exclude Jerusalem.

Salamah stressed that the DFLP will not go back on its position, especially since it began to receive a huge popular support within the occupied territories and abroad.

Algeria

Gendarme Killed in Sidi Bel Abbes Province 4 May

LD0405165393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Armed terrorists killed the gendarme Boulenouar Rabah in Sidi Bel Abbes Province at 1100 this morning. The National Gendarmeries Command—which reported the news this afternoon—pointed out that the victim was standing in front of the National Gendarmeries Brigade headquarters of the Sidi Ali Boussidi municipality when a Mazda car passed. Two armed terrorists shot at the gendarme from the back of the car and hit him in the head with two bullets.

Court Sentences 6 'Terrorists' in Absentia

LD0505004393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The Oran special court has passed a sentence of life imprisonment this evening in absentia on six terrorists who are still fugitives. The court upheld the crimes that had been committed by these, namely harming the security and authority of the state, forming an armed group, and possessing and manufacturing explosives.

The court also passed a sentence of 10-years imprisonment on Benzedine Mohamed, Haddar Djilali, Cheechou Abdelakder, and Morceeli Ahmed on the same charges.

The others, Kendouz Abdelkader, Kehouadji Djamal Eddine, Cheghal Ben Khedda, and Ben Zehli Mohamed received 3-year sentences. Boutouel Issa was released.

On the other hand, the national gendarmerie command confirmed today that seven terrorists out of the nine who had been liquidated yesterday by a special unit of the Algerian National People's Army at the farm of Mousaouet southeast of the town of Boufarik, in Blida Province have been identified.

The command of the national gendarmerie explained that the identity of the other terrorists is being established. It added that four terrorists of the seven who have been identified were being sought by the security services.

Ait Chaalal on Plans To 'Restore Morality'

PM0405151893 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 1 May 93 p10

[Report on interview with Messaoud Ait Chaalal, minister adviser to Algerian prime minister, by Lucio Lami in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] Algiers—To get into the government building one has to get past the Soviet armored cars repainted in Islamic white and green. Terrorism is rife and the daily average, despite severe repression, is about 10 dead. The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], a radical Islamic party, is still banned but it makes itself heard. Unemployment is growing, the economic crisis is severe, and the threat of civil war is increasing by the hour. As if that were not enough, the backwash of Italy's bribe city scandal has now arrived, promising fresh earthquakes. Patrizio Schmidlin, Italian ambassador in Algiers, has already expressed his concern to me: There is a danger that this scandal may cloud trade relations between Italy and Algeria—relations which are stronger than ever, since Italy will depend on Algiers for 50 percent of its gas needs by 1995. Gas is the very issue over which there is talk of bribes on both sides of the Mediterranean sea.

With Ait Chaalal, a government figure and official government spokesman, I adopted a wary approach to the matter, but I was immediately relieved of any embarrassment.

[Ait Chaalal] We have read the Italian papers and have asked our press to follow the story. We will also instruct a judge to go to Italy in order to investigate further. We totally agree with you: We must root out the weed of corruption. We too have opened an inquiry, and we want to get to the bottom of the Italian contracts affair: We will get to the bottom of it, and all this will in no way worsen our relations with Rome. [Ait Chaalal ends]

I then told Ait Chaalal in a roundabout way that, where kickbacks are concerned, they are normally split two ways, but my interlocutor was unruffled.

[Ait Chaalal] Of course. That is why we want to restore morality. Here in our country, if there are indeed any people involved, then they carried on their business with previous teams. Decades of malpractice, laxity, hoarding, and nepotism which, along with the black market and tax dodging, set the scene for the present revolt.

[Lami] So are you planning on a spring-clean as well?

[Ait Chaalal] We have two aims to get us out of the present crisis: Combating terrorism, and moving firmly toward moralizing political circles, fighting mercilessly against illegally gained wealth, including any that was accrued thanks to convenient laws.

[Lami] So it is not the fundamentalist wave which is causing the crisis and the danger of civil war?

[Ait Chaalal] Of course it is fundamentalism, but another important cause is the aversion which public opinion, including nonfundamentalist public opinion, is showing toward the governing class. In the primary elections which were later suspended, the FIS won 3 million votes out of the 17 million people entitled to vote. Admittedly, thanks to abstentions, it achieved 40 percent of consensus in that way, but it should not be overestimated. FIS voters include people strongly attached to religion, but also many opportunists, many

manipulators, many Manichaeans who, like the communists a while ago, dream of a dictatorship, only this time of a theocratic nature. And then there are the nostalgics, those who say they want to return to the golden age of the four caliphs who succeeded Muhammad, seeming to forget that three out of the four were assassinated for political reasons. Let us speak the truth: We are faced with a violent political movement using the Islamic flag to climb to power and exploiting the clear mistakes of past governments.

[Lami] And yet you have broken off diplomatic relations with Iran...

[Ait Chaalal] Of course. First the Iranian Government attacked us, then [leader of the Islamic Revolution] Khamene'i himself sided with our internal aggressors. We have withdrawn our ambassador from Sudan as well, because the government in Khartoum bitterly criticized us for the way in which we respond to terrorism. Besides, we have proof that Sudan offers hospitality to many Algerian extremists, providing them with assistance and military training.

[Lami] Support for the FIS is probably a sign of Muslim brotherhood...

[Ait Chaalal] I do not think so. Look at what is happening in Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen, to say nothing of Afghanistan where, now the Russians have moved out, the Muslim "brothers" are still killing each other. As for our FIS, Sudanese leader Al-Turabi called it "crude, lacking any program, and not fit to represent an alternative in government." Besides, we too are Muslims but without being extremists. Indeed, we are keeping dialogue open with the two Islamic parties which agreed to condemn terrorism: Hamas and the Renaissance Party [Nahdha].

[Lami] The nondenominational opposition accuses you of just that: hedging your bets simply to stay in power, wheeling and dealing.

[Ait Chaalal] We are determined to root out terrorism with all the means at our disposal: Let that be clear. But we have also said that we will talk and deal with anyone who accepts two conditions: to openly condemn terrorism and to agree to a democratic, pluralist state which respects human rights. On 8 May Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council (the provisional body currently running the country—IL GIORNALE editor's note), will announce the new government program and the measures planned to overcome the crisis. [Ait Chaalal ends].

Ait Chaalal kindly explained these to me; here is a resume of the innovations. In order to "safeguard and consolidate the sovereignty of the state," a "merciless struggle against terrorism and corruption" will be undertaken. To that end, over and above the measures already taken (three divisions totaling 15,000 men have been deployed around the capital in the past few days), the laws in force regarding the repression of terrorism and corruption will be reviewed and made more effective; two "special judicial bodies" will be set up, one to investigate terrorism and the other corruption; diplomatic action "will be pursued with those governments which are our trading partners to ensure that our judiciary is authorized to investigate in those countries." Moreover, "electoral lists will be reviewed so as to avoid any repetition of past disputes over elections"; "criteria for awarding salaries will be reviewed" so that pay is linked to productivity and "the value of work" is established once again.

In all probability, a few changes at the top will take place to coincide with the launch of these innovations. There are also plans to boost the "National Council," a consultative body which fell into disuse and which is now to be doubled in size (from 60 to 120 members) and to represent the various political and corporative forces pending a return to the democratic system.

The government's plan seems to be to hold out at all costs until 1995, when exploitation of the new oil wells and an increase in gas sales thanks to the doubling of the pipeline to Italy and the new pipelines to Spain, Portugal, and possibly France, should bring in enough revenue to placate the people's ill feelings. This program, as we will see, is strewn with obstacles.

Government Officially Recognizes Eritrea

LD0405201493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Following the latest referendum in Eritrea, which was held under UN supervision and which resulted in Eritrea's independence, Algeria today announced its recognition of the independence of this African country.

Algeria also expressed its readiness, through this official recognition, to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Eritrea.

Egypt

Foreign Minister on Bosnia, IAEA, Peace Talks

NC0505060493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2139 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo tonight following a two-day visit to Austria and Greece.

He said the Serb signing of a cease-fire agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, although a step in the right direction, is not enough, does not signify great progress, and will remain suspect until guarantees are given. He said the sanctions could be maintained until there is real progress toward ending hostilities under effective supervision.

He said arms shipments to the Serbs must stop and their heavy weapons must be collected, adding that the Serb Government in Belgrade should stop trying to establish a Greater Serbia.

He stated that refugees must be repatriated and compensated and those who implemented ethnic cleansing operations must be put on trial.

Musa pointed out that these are basic points that must be emphasized, because, without them, the signing of the agreement is worthless. [passage omitted]

Referring to his meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] director, he said they discussed the situation in the Middle East in light of the Egyptian initiative to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the obstacles this initiative faces. He noted that they exchanged views on the situation in North Korea, Iraq, and Israel and said that further contacts will be carried out with the IAEA on these issues.

On the Middle East peace talks, the foreign minister declared: I believe the peace process is on the right track. We must ensure the success of the ninth round of talks, because it is an important round the success of which will boost the peace process. Failure would cast a long shadow on the future of peace in the region.

He voiced optimism about the talks, noting that the reports he has received show negotiations have begun on substantive issues on the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

UN Group on Human Rights Abuses in Territories Arrives

NC0405204493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] A UN fact-finding committee investigating human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

The committee chairman, who also is Sri Lanka's UN permanent delegate, stated that in Damascus and Amman, committee members listened to testimonies that provided considerable information about Israel's practices against the Palestinians. He added that everyone emphasized that tension is mounting as a result of the siege imposed on Gaza and the unprecedented destruction of Palestinian homes through the use of anti-tank missiles. He said he will present the committee's findings to Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials to obtain Egypt's view on the matter.

He added that based on the testimonies it has heard, the committee has noted a considerable rise recently in fatalities involving children under 16.

Germany's Kinkel on Mideast Peace, Bosnia

NC0405071693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has stated that Egypt is a very important partner and reliable friend for Germany and that the two countries share identical views on all issues.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, he said his talks in Cairo in the next few days will deal with the means to enhance bilateral cooperation in every field. He said the Middle East peace process will top his talks with Egyptian officials and he praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to resume the peace talks. He reiterated German support for the Middle East peace efforts.

He said he will meet Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss making Arab-European dialogue an effective one to benefit every party in every sphere.

He criticized the international community's stance on the Bosnia- Herzegovina tragedy, noting that it did adopt enough resolve against the Serb policy of violence at the right time, which made things worse, especially for the Muslims in Bosnia.

Commenting on media exaggeration of terrorist incidents in Egypt and their impact on tourism, the German foreign minister acknowledged excesses by some media, which misrepresented the incidents, and he praised the Egyptian security agencies' efforts to protect tourists.

He said he hoped he will have time to see Egypt's antiquities and enjoy its fascinating nature on his trip.

Commerce Official on Revenue Lost From Iraqi Invasion

NC0205105093 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 2 (AFP)—Egypt lost more than 300 million dollars in unpaid exports to Iraq and is making contacts to recover the money, an Egyptian official was quoted on Sunday as saying.

The goods were exported before Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the secretary general of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce Federation, Mustafa Zaki, told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-ITTIHAD.

"The total losses of Egyptian exporters to Iraq exceed 300 million dollars as it has not paid back due to the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations," he said. [sentence as received] "We are making contacts to regain their rights."

Zaki did not make clear if the contacts were with Iraq, which cut links with Egypt after it joined a U.S.-dominated international coalition to drive Baghdad's forces from Kuwait in February 1991.

He said some exporters had recovered 42 million dollars or 90 percent of the value of their exports in compensation from the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee, which had insured their exports.

"The remaining exporters are not insured because they did not know there is an organisation that insures

exports against all risks or because they believe such insurance could increase the cost of their exports," he said.

Agricultural Delegation Leaves for Israel

NC0205202493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—An Egyptian agricultural delegation led by Fu'ad Abu-Hadab, head of the Agricultural Construction and Development Agency, left Cairo today for Israel on a week-long visit.

Abu-Hadab said that the delegation will take part in a four-day crops fair, visit a liquid fertilizer factory, and gather information about agricultural and irrigation techniques.

Bids Invited for Oil Exploration in Hala'ib

NC0405082593 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Talbah and Halah al-Shuqayri]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian Government has received several bids by international companies to explore and prospect for oil in the Hala'ib area. Hamdi al-Binbi, petroleum and mineral resources minister, said four areas along the coast from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, including the Hala'ib area, have been put up for bids for oil exploration and prospecting by international companies. He said the government has received several bids from these companies asking that they be permitted to start exploring. They also submitted the cost they will bear in carrying out this work.

The minister said the bids will be considered at the beginning of next year to encourage as many companies as possible to participate. He said Hala'ib is Egyptian territory and is included in the areas being offered. He said the signs are that there is enough oil in these areas, making it possible to extract the oil and cover the cost of exploration.

He noted that all the bids have been submitted by international companies, with no Arab company among them. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Appoints New Republican Guards Commander

NC0305173993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued a presidential decree appointing Staff Major General Majdi Anwar Radwan Hatatah commander of the Republican Guards. Maj. Gen. Hatatah was formerly commander of the Second Field Army.

Interior Minister on Efforts To Help Police Force

NC0505105593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that his ministry received 106 million Egyptian pounds as a first installment to promote police armament, to improve transport, and to import modern crime-detection equipment. He said the ministry originally requested 320 million pounds to develop police work.

The minister told security directors that the confrontation of terrorists and terrorism will continue firmly and in a disciplined manner. But this, he added, will not distract us from other police duties, notably combating corruption and pursuing the corrupt, no matter who they are or what posts they hold.

During a meeting yesterday with his assistants, senior Interior Ministry officials, and directors of security in the governorates, the minister stressed the importance of training police officers and personnel. Training, he said, should be serious, not nominal, and should involve frequent light exercises.

The minister urged paying attention to the social, human, health, and living conditions of police personnel and recruits, calling on security directors to directly supervise these issues.

The interior minister said the circumstances require further efforts to maintain public funds and fight corruption and tax evasion. He said the fight against crimes of public fund abuse, against drugs, honor, and forgery must be activated, because all this is part of the fight against terrorism. [passage omitted]

Minister on Removing 'Extremist' Educators From Schools

NC0405212293 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 May 93 p 1

[Text] Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has asserted that he will strongly confront the extremist influence in educational institutions to restore the image of schools as places for a sound education and upbringing and to protect children from indoctrination.

Baha'-al-Din told AKHBAR AL-YAWM correspondent Muhammad Imbabi that he will not leave the future of the young to the extremists. He added that he has actually removed hundreds of extremist educators and their sympathizers from their posts after ascertaining their guilt via ministry channels or through certified complaints from parents.

The education minister added: The Education Ministry is in control and watching for any extremist attempt to infiltrate the schools and influence students of various ages.

Editor Responds to Islamic Revolution Leader's Accusations

NC0105105393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—AKHBAR AL-YAWM Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah has launched a fierce attack against 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, because of a speech he made recently that was reported by international news agencies in which he attacked Egypt, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause, and used abrasive and insulting language about President Mubarak.

In an article published by AKHBAR AL-YAWM today, Sa'dah wonders how Khamene'i allowed himself to reveal to the public his pleasure at the terrorist crimes in Egypt, and how he dared accuse Egypt, the cradle of al-Azhar, of betraying Islam. Sa'dah notes in his article that Egypt has always been the target of the Iranian regime's vituperations, despite this regime's desperate attempts to restore relations with Cairo.

The AKHBAR AL-YAWM chief editor says that President Mubarak's objection to restoring relations with Tehran deprived the Iranian rulers of the diplomatic, cultural, conspiratorial, and subversive presence they planned and hoped to have in Egypt.

Sa'dah affirms that the Iranian regime's allegations are totally unfounded, noting that Iran renewed its attacks and insults after having exhausted other issues, and could not do better than to accuse the Egyptian people of abandoning religion. This is something that is disproved by reality and is ridiculed by anyone who has lived in this religious country.

Responding to the Iranian accusation that Egypt has betrayed the Palestinian cause, Sa'dah questions Iran's connection with the Palestinian issue and wonders what Iran has contributed to Palestine in the past 50 years. The writer refers to Iran's relations with Israel during the Shah's regime and the regime of the mullahs, noting how Israel supplied Iran with weapons during its war with Iraq.

Sa'dah wonders what the secret is behind this flagrant hostility toward Egypt and its people. He says the Iranian objective is not much different from the Iraqi objective, which is to devour the Gulf states because of their oil wealth.

Sa'dah refers to the Iraqi regime's attempt to draw Egypt to its side to ensure its neutrality, because Egypt never hesitated for a moment to provide assistance and protection to the Gulf states. When its expectations failed and Egypt supported justice during the crisis of the Iraqi invasion, the Iranian rulers failed to learn the lesson.

Sa'dah affirms that Egypt, which has stood in the face of the Iraqi ambitions, will remain a firm obstacle to the mullahs' dreams of devouring the Gulf states.

NDP Calls For Decisive Action Against Terrorism

NC0405085693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The National Democratic Party [NDP] Secretariat in Cairo held a massive popular conference yesterday to discuss the confrontation of terrorism and extremism. It was attended by many political, public, and executive leaders and prominent writers, men of letters, and thinkers.

The republic's mufti, His Eminence Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, discussed Islam's policy and good treatment of other religions. He said Egypt will remain the impervious fortress of national unity, of its Muslims and Copts, and added that Islam does not call for killing and destruction, but advocates good.

Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir urged the citizens to stand as one rank behind the political, executive, and security authorities to confront terrorism and emerge from the collective negative situation to reveal the terrorism plot.

Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji, NDP secretary in Cairo, spoke about the role of intellectuals and media men in the call for a genuine popular and cultural confrontation of terrorism.

NDP Secretariat member Mamduh [other names indistinct] noted the danger of terrorism, saying it is a black devil that seeks power to spread its corruption. He urged the Egyptian people to stand in close ranks in the face of this phenomenon.

The delegates were unanimous in renouncing terrorism and extremism and on the need to deal with them decisively and firmly.

Court Releases Remaining Defendants in Salsabil Case

NC0405160393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] The Consultative Chamber of the East Cairo Criminal Court on Tuesday [27 April] ordered the release of all 15 Muslim Brotherhood members held in custody in the Salsabil case [computer company whose owners stand accused of spying and collecting information on Egypt] after six months of precautionary imprisonment, during which no evidence was produced against them. Thus, all 31 defendants in the case have been released.

The court held its session amid stringent security measures. Ahmad al-Khawajah, chairman of the Lawyers Association, argued that the precautionary imprisonment was invalid and called for the release of the defendants saying that the materials which were seized with them did not constitute a crime and that the chamber which met under counselor Mahmud

Muhammad Zaki to examine the extension of the precautionary imprisonment is the same chamber that ordered the release of the owners of the company a few months ago.

Defense attorney Jamil Basyuni said the investigations are invalid and full of lies and calumnies. The defendants' call for the application of the Islamic shari'ah does not conflict with the basic principles of the state. Ma'mum Maysar, a member of the defense team, explained that the state security prosecutor continues to refuse to allow the company to resume its work.

Price Rises, Service Rates Increases Reported

NC0305101293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Husayn al-Batrawi]

[Text] The government has approached the IMF and World Bank missions with a new set of promises to be honored as part of the next stage of the so-called economic reform program.

The set of promises includes lifting the remaining subsidy on sugar and cooking oil, taking these two commodities off the rationing cards, and subjecting their prices to supply and demand from no later than July 1994. The government also promised to consider raising the price of bread by introducing "excellent quality loaves," the prices of which will be determined upon introduction.

The government has promised to raise water bills by at least 15 percent of current rates and for an unlimited period until the rates triple. Energy and transport rates will be increased to 80 percent of their economic prices [Si'ruha al-Iqtisadi], an average increase of 15-25 percent.

The government has decided to sell 250,000 feddans of public agricultural-sector arable land. The annual revenue from this land is estimated at 750 million Egyptian pounds. The private sector's share of imports will be increased from 30 to 60 percent as part of a plan to liberate foreign trade.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in Yefren

LD0405172693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2003 GMT 3 May 93

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students of educational establishments in Yefren; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Perhaps you have followed some of the meetings with your brother students of various faculties at the al-Jabal al-Gharbi University. [passage omitted]

God has decreed that the power of Satan will remain until doomsday. Has not God told us in the Koran that Satan has horses, men, a force, agents and hirelings who come to you from everywhere? This exists in the Koran. Satan is not on his own, just one individual. No, he has many aides. He has agents, hirelings, spies, the dollar, the Muslim Brothers, the al-Takfir wal-Hijrah [atonement and flight movement], the al-Da'wah, the Jihad [Islamic movements], and the heresy. All these are with Satan. [passage omitted]

Satan comes to you on behalf of religion. When the al-Takfir wal-Hijrah speaks to you, you say: That is it, I go with it. But afterwards you will find that it has led you into heresy. The people they are now holding and executing in Egypt, Algeria, and everywhere are misled people. Somebody comes to them clad like the Christ, clothes of piety, a pious man; a shaykh in a mosque tricks you with words like: There is no God but God; I ask for God's foregiveness. You then say: That is it, I go with him and pray to his call, while the man is an heretic. After one year you find yourself embroiled in al-Takfir wal-Hijrah, or in al-Da'wah wal- Jihad, or in al-Tabligh, or in al-Jama'a, or in al-Tahrir, or the Muslim Brothers [Islamic movements]. Then you find yourself bound to move forward. Deliberately they block all lines of retreat to you. They [followers] embroil themselves with them until they fall in the hands of the police and then they regret it, saying: We have been tricked; we did not think that matters would be like this. Naturally, Satan misleads you. [passage omitted]

Somebody would come to you, and when you are caught you would say: I did not know he was Satan, I did not know he was from al-Takfir wal-Hijrah, I know that al-Takfir wal-Hijrah is an heretic movement from Islam that comes from Iran, planted to undermine Islam. And you would say: I went with him, thinking that he was a pious man, an Arab like me; I did not know that he was taught by somebody else, a non-Arab, who taught him this heresy. But then you would be told: That is it, you go to jail, and the court and the law will deal with you. God told Adam: Adam, you are now repenting, but it does not matter, go to earth, you and Satan go down to earth; get out of Paradise, you and he, and you have wronged yourself.

Somebody is caught by the police and then he says: Sorry, I did not know it is like that. Then his mother comes crying and saying: Son, why did you do this, I wanted you to graduate, to work for us, to help your brothers and your father, why are you like this? We have seen old women collapsing and crying, the poor women. She says to her son: Why did you enter into heresy, and he says: By God, mother, I did not know it was heresy, I thought it was something good. [passage omitted]

We have found out that U.S. intelligence printed the books of Ibn Taymiyah and the books of al-Ghazali [Islamic thinkers], would you believe, and the books of a Turk called (Yakun). They print Islamic books. How come that U.S. intelligence prints these books? They [Americans] say: These are the yellow books [old books on Islam and religion] that turn Arabs into charlatans,

and make them set up religious movements and divide into 70 sects, so that the Arab nation may be fragmented, just as we have fragmented East Europe. Now is the turn of the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Who suggested to the Algerians to set up an Islamic party, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]? U.S. intelligence went there, taking a device with them. I have told your brothers about it and they laughed. They chose a football stadium where they asked all the Islamists to assemble. Then they brought laser beams—Engineer Maatug present here knows about them—and with the laser beams they wrote in the sky the inscription: There is no God but God. The simple Algerians who know no laser started shouting: God is great, there is no God but God. [passage omitted]

Is this not a curse from God, a disaster, can it be done by a wise, nationalist person who has a religion? Which religion allows you to wreck Algeria once again? After the loss of one and a half million martyrs in the liberation war for the cause of building itself and healing its wounds—and we Arabs are happy that Algeria liberated itself—it sinks again in a civil war. [passage omitted]

They have brought to us heresy, a thing which we did not know. Is it possible that we have among us an Arab, a Muslim—we are not talking about Muslims who are from other nationalities who do not understand Islam, but I am talking about an Arab [sentence as heard]. To us Islam is very clear and simple. You can pray at home on your own, with a group, and go to the mosque if you want and keep the fast while remaining silent about it, and nobody knows whether you are keeping the fast or not; this is a matter of conscience. You know yourself whether you fast or not and know how to perform pilgrimage if the West allows you to go to Mecca. Christian states are now the ones which give permission to Muslims on whether they can go or not. If these states allow you, the one who is able to perform pilgrimage has the duty to do so. If one gets permission from the West and goes to Mecca, they will know that you have performed pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

Is it possible that we the good people, who have understood the Koran and Islam and are Muslims and have followed it for 1,400 years, will accept these satanic ideas and wake up in the morning and say: This is wrong and either you follow the salvation or you are unbelievers. This is not possible; thus did a satan get in, and there is a planned scheme, behind which funds have been spent and there is an imperialist strategy which undermines Islam, pan-Arabism, and the Arab nation, and create breaches among us so that their armies can advance.

That is no accidental plan. It is no coincidence that we hear of guns, bombs, killings among civilians and the police; innocent men killed in the street because they are ministers or deputy ministers. What is their fault? I say that behind all that there is a plan. First of all, the Jewish state, Israel, has to be numerically the biggest and most powerful state in the Middle East. The first country that confronts it is Egypt, also a big state. That plan stipulates the division of Egypt into a Muslim state and a Coptic one. How could that be brought about? Through a conspiracy which is being hatched by means of religion, because no one doubts that U.S. intelligence meddles in Islam. The situation is one of Muslim against fellow Muslim; they say: That is your affair, Muslims and Copts killing each other. How can you say that when it was you who hatched the conspiracy? The case involves people who are trained abroad; they come back, they grow beards and call themselves al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyyah. [passage omitted]

We in Libya are aware of what is happening; anyone holding a yellow book must immediately have his hand chopped off or even be eliminated because he is like a rabid dog. No one will talk to me about Al-Takfir wa Al-Hijrah; they have become renegade movements backed by the West which uses them to destroy us. That is a well-known fact. [passage omitted]

Continuing his address, al-Qadhdhafi further praises the Libyan system of government, a model for others. He says all others will will discover that they should emulate Libyas: an armed and sovereign people. Al-Qadhdhafi recalls the behavior of the prophet and the rise of Islam which had spread in remote regions of the world. Likewise, perhaps in years ahead the world will follow the Libyan people and the Green Book, as remote people had followed Islam, which emanated from a small and poor people in the Arabian Peninsula.

Al-Qadhdhafi stresses that colonialists showed contempt to Libya, but now the latter is building people's power. He stresses the social progress achieved in the area in the domain of housing and economic infrastructure, something to be proud of. He says that railroads must be built to link Tunisia with Egypt. Engineers are studying the issue, he says. This would be a great achievement, like the great man-made river.

At 2111 GMT al-Qadhdhafi again stresses the danger of the shortage of water supplies in the Arab world, and says that the aim of the idea of an Arab nation is that wealth should be shared by the Arab countries. Al-Qadhdhafi recalls that Libyans can now live in Egypt, Sudan, and even Chad, and can own property there. Agreements have been concluded to this effect. A Libyan can now have a farm in Egypt, Sudan, or Chad. This is a blessing. The General People's Committee for unity would facilitate matters for Libyans who want to buy property in Egypt, Sudan, and Chad. This is great, and al- Qadhdhafi expresses his happiness at this fact which "opens up doors for Libyans and their childrens and grandchildren."

Al-Qadhdhafi further stresses the importance of Libyans being able to own property in Egypt. Answering a question by a member of the audience on what happens to property owned by Libyans in those countries if there is a change of regime there, al-Qadhdhafi stresses that currently, regimes in Sudan, Egypt, and Chad are

friendly and he hopes they will not change. But Libyans would be dealing with people, and the agreements concern two countries and not two governments.

In response to a remark by a member of the audience, al-Qadhdhafi says that the British were amazed when he explained that Shakespeare was an Arab and that his real name was Shaykh Zubayr. The audience chants: "Teach us O leader, teach us." He recalls the civilizational feats of ancient Arabs and their glory. Europe was covered in ice, and people from Asia emigrated there. Tribes came from Yemen to North Africa and were called berbers. The audience chants: "O leader, do correct history."

Al-Qadhdhafi says that the Libyan revolution unites the nation and does not divide it. "Tell anyone that you are Libyan and they will sanctify you." He again says that he loves to meet the people in fraternal and informal meetings such as this.

A member of the audience tells al-Qadhdhafi that he had honored them by his visit and that they are happy to see him. He adds that following the bombing of his home, the people of Jadu built a home for him and his family in the town. Jadu people want him to be one of them. The speaker says that the people are with him and would do anything he would ask them to do. The audience chants: "We are on your principles, Oh leader." Al-Qadhdhafi thanks the audience for their attention.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Jadu Residents

LD0105213793

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2008 GMT on 1 May begins to broadcast a recorded report on a meeting between leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and "the masses of the communes of Jadu," held on 30 April.

The report begins with a meeting where al-Qadhdhafi is seen in a hall with an audience seated in front of him. An unnamed official welcomes al-Qadhdhafi, "the maker of the era of the masses and the one that has caused the eruption of the 1 September revolution." He stresses that the population of Jadu welcomes the leader wholeheartedly. A poet then proceeds to read a poem praising al-Qadhdhafi and his revolution. The audience then performs Friday Prayers led by al-Qadhdhafi.

Another unidentified citizen reads out another poem praising al-Qadhdhafi and his work. The poem also expresses support for al-Qadhdhafi and promising him victory. The audience chants the slogan: "To hell with the blockade." The poet urges al-Qadhdhafi to be patient and to resist, because "victory is coming. Either victory or martyrdom."

Members of the audience present an act of allegiance to al-Qadhdhafi. The act, which is read out, hails al-Qadhdhafi's virtues and his "siding with the masses." The audience chants: One Arab people. The act pledges loyalty to pan-Arabism."

Al-Qadhdhafi receives the written act, and then listens to a written messsage by a woman welcoming him in Jadu, and again pledging allegiance to him and his principles and ideas. "We are a people that does not acept defeat," the woman says. Another slogan is chanted: "One Arab dies and another stays alive to tell the truth loudly." Another woman reads out a message on people's power. More slogans are heard: "We are revolutionaries by principle. We smash the noses of our enemies." Another person reads out a poem of welcome, allegiance, and praise to al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdafi begins to address the audience. He thanks them for their warm welcome, and thanks the population of Jadu for the house they have built for him following te bombing of his house. He says his family greets and thanks the population of Jadu for their gesture.

Libya, he says, is "steadfast and prosperous." He continues: People love one another. It is a peaceful country. Libyans have the right and correct government system and have avoided all problems felt around them. Throughout the world there is a struggle for power, in Yugoslavia, Africa, in the former Soviet Union. Libyans are sad about the fate of their friends and say to them that emancipaton is in people's power. Elections are sham and do not solve people's problems. They have fought the Green Book and Nasir, the liberator of the Arab people.

Al-Qadhdhafi expresses regret at the situation in Algeria, which he says is a victim of a colonial trick. Democracy is people's power and this is not applied in Algeria where no one is secure. Heretics and charlatans want to use Islam to take power there. The same in Egypt where heretics "apply colonialism's plan." He criticizes Islamists as heretics bent on destruction in Egypt and Algeria. They are against Nasir and al-Qadhdhafi, and their culture is reactionary, he says.

He goes on to say: Thank God Libya has realized the correct path in people's power where people govern themselves, without intermediary. He urges the audience to safeguard people's power and not to forego what they have. You see deterioration around you, and "you should thank God for your blessings." He says he is happy about what he saw: clean and sincere people, which makes him more determined. "This is our ammunition in the fight to combat the enemy," he continues. He says some people are jealous of Libyans, who "have no problems." He explains that in Libya there are no wage-earners, everyone is sovereign, and security is in the people's hands.

Al-Qadhdhafi again urges the audience to thank God and be happy with what they have. He advises them to continue avoiding the "imperialist and Zionist" conspiracy, the conspiracy of political parties. The Koran and Islam are against political parties, he says. Muslims must always be united. Al-Qadhdhafi says he is more and more confident in the mnasses, especially in remote

regions where he finds that people are prepared to sacrifice. This is why colonialism respects us, he says.

New Session of Libyan-Cuban Cooperation Talks Begins

LD0405150793 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa [May] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Arab Libyan-Cuban joint talks on economic and social co-operation entered their ninth session in Tripoli yesterday. They were attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Utilities, Tourism and Transport and Ernesto Melindis the minister of state for economic co-operation in Cuba.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Utilities, Tourism and Transport made a speech welcoming the Cuban delegation and confirmed that the presence of this delegation provides the best evidence of Cuba's solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah in confronting the false [UN] Resolution 748. It also represents the true desire to increase and strengthen the established co-operation between the two countries in various areas for the benefit of both friendly people and praised the distinguished relations linking the Jamahariyah and Cuba.

Ernesto Melindis, the minister of state for economic co-operation in Cuba, made a speech expressing both his and his delegation's happiness at being in the Great Jamahariyah. He condemned the unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariyah by the false Resolution no 748. The Cubam minister praised the solid stances of the Great Jamahariyah in its support of the causes of liberation and the issues of peaceloving nations throughout the globe.

During the opening session of the [word indistinct] Arab Libyan-Cuban joint committee, working parties were set up to prepare economic and social co-operation programmes between the Great Jamahariyah and Cuba.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Sudan Talks in Abjua

Committee To Examine Religious Factor

AB0405185393 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] A committee has been set up to look into the various positions and submissions by the two parties in the Sudanese conflict on the issue of religion. A member of the Nigerian mediating team, Colonel Lawan Gwadabe, announced this today in Abuja. Col. Gwadabe said that it was still possible for the committee to obtain compromise. The Nigerian mediatory team had earlier proposed that the application of the Islamic shari'ah law should be made a personal law in the Sudan.

The spokesman for the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] delegation, Justin Yakarub [as heard], said the group disagreed with Nigeria's proposal because of the geographical application of the shari'ah law in the Sudan. The SPLA had insisted that shari'ah law must be reduced to personal law instead of being public law as the government of the Sudan was proposing. The issue of shari'ah law has been the one major factor militating against the peace conference.

'Personal' Exemption From Shari'ah Cited

EA0405081893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] This evening the peace talks between the government delegation under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and the rebel movement, [Colonel John] Garang's faction, resume in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

The leader of the government delegation, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, received a document on 2 May prepared by the Nigerian Government which could be a basis for discussion and deliberations to lead, in the end, to agreement.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, the official spokesman of the government at the peace talks, said that the salient points of the Nigerian document were discussed. He said that the document began with the Nigerian experiment but ignored the Sudanese experiment. This was one of the major shortcomings in the document, bearing in mind that there is a difference between Sudan and Nigeria in general, particularly in the federal field, with regard to the position of the Army. The document pointed out that the rebel army should exist as an entity during the transitional period.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj confirmed their rejection of this question. His excellency stressed that there is only one army. With regard to the relationship between the state and religion, Dr. Ali al-Hajj clarified that the Nigerian document did not tackle the question, in spite of the objective solutions presented by the government delegation. The document pointed out that there should be exemption from Islamic law on a personal basis and not on a geographical one. Administrative jurisdictions were to be distributed between the state governments and the federal government in addition to common jurisdictions.

Sudanese Reject Proposals on Shari'ah

AB0405084593 Paris AFP in English 0122 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Abuja, May 4 (AFP)—Sudanese Government and rebel delegations on Monday [3 May] rejected a Nigerian proposal for a "personal" application of shari'ah, or Islamic law, in Sudan, delegates to a peace conference here reported. Under the terms of the proposal, presented to the two sides late Sunday [2 May], Islamic law would not be applied for an unspecified interim period to southerners, generally animist or of

Christian persuasion, living in the Muslim north of the country. The several hundred thousand southerners living in the north would be "personally" exempted from the shari'ah. The three south Sudanese regions would continue to be exempt from Islamic law as they are at present.

"We do not want a law that governs the relationship between a state and individuals to be derived from a religion," insisted Nhial Deng Nhial, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA). He also faulted the Nigerian proposal because it "only concerned itself with the geographical application of the law."

But his government counterpart, Planning Minister 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, argued: "Our compromise to the SPLA is that we shall not make Islam the religion of the state of Sudan." He stressed that "shari'ah is an indigenous part of Sudan and that secularism is alien to Sudan and Africa." He also warned that there are now efforts "to import the European idea of secularism into Africa."

Nigeria, which itself has a mixed Muslim, Christian and animist population, is hosting the talks between the Khartoum authorities and the SPLM/SPLA. The Nigerian proposal was aimed at achieving a compromise between the retrenched positions of the two sides over the key issues of religion and state structures. [passage omitted]

More on Rejection

AB0405123093 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The Sudanese peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, continue today. Already the Nigerian Government mediators have presented proposals for a peaceful settlement to the delegates for consideration. John Eloi Agu in Abuja told Bath Ikeibe in Lagos this morning the progress made so far:

[Begin recording] [Agu] Well, the deliberations centered mainly, yesterday, on the Nigerian proposal, and the main issue which featured yesterday was part of the proposal which was on state and religion and, expectedly, both sides reenacted their positions—that is no significant shift was seen between the two parties on their erstwhile positions which, accordingly, is the application of shari'ah law in the north as the position of the government delegation, and that of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] which insisted on the relegation of shari'ah to personal law status.

[Ikeibe] What specific proposals have been put forward by the Nigerian mediators?

[Agu] Well, the Nigerian mediators advanced a proposal to the effect that shari'ah law should be made personal law in the northern part of the country to believers of Islam, that is to Muslims, while non-Muslims should not be affected, and it also proposed that in the south, where there are followers of other religions, shari'ah law should not apply at all. But this, as I said, was turned down by the parties to the dispute, especially the government delegation.

The next item, which of course has not been discussed on the agenda, is that of the interim arrangement, which borders on (?transference) and devolution of power. That is, perhaps, going to receive attention later today.

[Ikeibe] How did the delegates of the two sides, that is the SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] and the government delegation, react to this Nigerian proposal?

[Agu] Well, their reaction is, in principle, a welcome one. They are happy with the development because it is a process through which a common platform could be found by the warring factions, upon which an agreement, an accord, could be struck. But the point is that none of the parties is willing to concede ground.

[Ikeibe] What are the prospects for achieving a peaceful settlement at the end of the talks?

[Agu] Yes, the prospects are in the area of interim arrangement. For example, if the problematic issue of state and religion can be (?dropped and side-tracked) effectively and discussions move into the area of interim arrangement and devolution of power, then we can look forward to brighter prospects of an accord. [end recording]

Further on Sudanese Position

EA0405210593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 4 May (SUNA)—The government's delegation to peace talks presented at Tuesday's [4 May] session a paper on the relationship between the religion and the state. The paper was presented in response to a demand made by the chairman of the Nigerian mediation team.

The paper said that the Sudan is a state of different races and cultures and that Islam is the religion of the majority. The paper also said that all Sudanese people are equal in rights and duties and they all have the right to participate in the different aspects of life.

The paper affirmed that the freedom of faith and worship is guaranteed to all Sudanese citizens. It also affirmed non-issuance of any legislation that might affect the religious rights of any person, emphasising that shari'ah and traditions are the sources of legislation of the Sudan.

As regards personal affairs law, the paper said it will be submitted to the religion or the tradition adopted by the citizens, and the Constitution should be named the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Sudan without mentioning the religion of the state.

The paper then affirmed that the southern states citizens will not be submitted to any punishments that emanate from the Islamic shari'ah.

SPLA Wants Foreign Observers for Cease-Fire

AB0305124693 Paris AFP in English 2227 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpts] Abuja, May 2 (AFP)—Sudanese rebel delegates, attending peace talks here with government representatives, Sunday [2 May] called for foreign observers to monitor any agreement on a ceasefire. "It is extremely difficult to report ceasefire violations (by either of the two parties to the conflict) without foreign observers monitoring it," the official spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA), Nhial Deng Nhial, told AFP Sunday. [passage omitted]

Nhial said a ceasefire observer commission for an interim period should be made up principally of contingents from Nigeria and other African countries and should have the active backing of the United Nations, the United States and the European Community. The participation of nations and international organisations outside Africa would facilitate the delivery of relief and other humanitarian assistance to the war-ravaged areas in Sudan, Nhial added.

The call for foreign observers was contained in an SPLA document presented to the conference here and obtained by AFP.

Outlining plans for a confederation, it said each of the constituent states would be empowered to enter into international agreements with foreign governments. Supreme authority in the confederation would rest with the head of the Sudanese State and the commander-in-chief of the SPLM/SPLA. A referendum would be held during an interim period in each of the confederal states on whether to maintain the confederation or to move on to full independence. If either of the two states voted to end the confederation in favor of independence, the parties would negotiate dissolution of their bonds, according to the document.

Nigerian mediators were meeting separately Sunday with each of the two delegations "with a view to extracting compromises from each side," said a Nigerian source. Nigeria is determined to secure an agreement here between the two Sudanese sides on at least the issue of interim arrangements, as other issues can be negotiated later, the source added.

TNA Speaker Notes 'Progress' in Talks

EA0405211193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) and chairman of government's delegation to peace talks, which are currently taking place in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has said, in a press statement, that the talks are progressing seriously towards the solution, and the government delegation had prepared the paper on the relationship between the religion and the state, which was demanded in Monday's [3 May] session of talks. The paper was handed over to the Nigerian Team, Khalifah added.

He further said there is a great hope that the talks would reach an agreeable form of solution following dissolution of the points of difference. He described the talks as serious and objective, except some exceptional points which will be discussed further.

As regards confederalism, which was proposed by Garang's faction, Khalifah affirmed that the government delegation would discuss the problem of the south in accordance with the recommendations of Abuja first round of talks and the national dialogue conference.

Meanwhile, minister of justice and member of the delegation, 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, said that the viewpoints had started to become close, adding that overcoming the issue of the relationship between the religion and the state is an indication of the good progress of the talks.

He added that every state has the right to work out a law suitable for it without any interference by any other state.

Al-Bashir on Qatari Ties, Hala'ib, Abuja Talks

EA0405125893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that progress and development in Sudanese-Qatari relations constitutes an introduction to improving Sudan's relations with the other Gulf states. In the interview he gave the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH at his office in the Friendship Hall on 3 May, his excellency appealed for the clearing of the Arab atmosphere before calling an Arab summit.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stated that there were some local, regional and international forces working to spoil the ongoing peace efforts in Abuja, Nigeria. His excellency confirmed Sudan's rejection of the idea of establishing secure zones in the south of the country. He said: This idea is completely rejected.

In his interview with AL-RAYAH of Qatar, his excellency also touched on Sudanese-Egyptian relations. He said that the propaganda campaigns must be stopped, and that the situation in Hala'ib must be restored to its original state as a prerequisite for the improvement of Sudanese-Egyptian relations. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir reviewed a number of current internal and external issues. He stressed that the revolution was fully satisfied with the achievements made in the country, despite the difficult conditions and the blockade to which Sudan was being subjected.

Official Calls Response to Relief Supplies Request Weak

EA0405130893 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA)—An official source at the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has described the response of the donor countries to the request of providing means for delivering relief supplies to southern Sudan as weak and not reaching the required level. The source told SUNA that the Sudan Government has fulfilled its commitment as it has allocated some 153,000 tonnes of relief materials to the needy areas in addition to 106,000 tonnes remaining from the last year, besides 68,000 tonnes from the donors. The source added that the recent clashes among the outlaws [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] factions are impeding the flow of the relief materials to the affected areas.

Opposition Leader Refutes Claims of Sudan Invasion

NC3004150293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, member of the legitimate command of the Sudanese Armed Forces in Cairo, has revealed the facts about the allegations made by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, about the so-called "invasion of Sudan" and the charges that Brig. Gen. Khalid had personally prepared this alleged invasion.

He said that the reason for al-Bashir's accusations that he had prepared the alleged invasion was his [Khalid's] opposition to the notion of letting the military monopolize authority and that he had voiced this opposition to al-Bashir on the second day of the coup that took place on 30 June 1989. He added that this prompted al-Bashir to dismiss him from the Army and to detain him for 18 months [as received] until his release in May 1990.

In exclusive statements to MENA, Brig. Gen. Khalid stressed that the legitimate command is in fact seeking to bring down the al-Bashir regime, but from within the country and not through an invasion as al-Bashir claims.

He said: The scenario of this alleged invasion reflects the stage of hysteria through which the Islamic Front's government is passing and is aimed at involving Egypt in this operation in order to extricate itself from the Hala'ib crisis after having failed to incite the ordinary Sudanese citizen against Egypt through the media. He added: This scenario also aims to cover up the campaign of arrests that the regime intends to carry out. According to information we have received, the Sudanese Government has in fact arrested nine individuals on charges of participating in this invasion in order to divert the world's attention from its human rights violations.

Brig. Gen. Khalid called on international human rights organizations to intervene immediately to save those who have been detained in the wake of the announcement about the alleged invasion of Sudan. He said that the Sudanese Government has also used this maneuver to cover up the arrival of some weapons from Russia, which shows the regime's true intentions of escalating the war [against the south] and not of establishing peace, and also to cover up the arrival of some terrorists from Afghanistan; the so-called "Arab Afghans" who Pakistan has decided to expel and Sudan has agreed to receive.

He stressed that Iran is behind these attempts to mar Egypt's reputation and to threaten it because Egypt is playing a major role in the call for peace in the Middle East, while the Islamic Front's government in Sudan is opposed to the peace negotiations and is sponsoring the extremist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which has split from the PLO and formed a tripartite alliance against the peace negotiations.

He said that the Hayy al-Riyadh area of Khartoum has become a stronghold for the Iranians and Hamas, as if it were not a part of Sudanese territory.

Brig. Gen. Khalid stressed that the ruling regime in Sudan is politically, economically, and socially besieged. He said that the scenario of the alleged invasion of Sudan was rejected by the Sudanese people, who felt that there was no invasion as long as the forces "as was broadcast" were Sudanese. He added that, on the second day of this maneuver, the Front's regime called for a mass rally to garner the people's support, but no one showed up and the regime was forced to assemble students from inside and outside the capital. He went on to say: If this regime falls, then all the Sudanese people will happily come out into the streets voluntarily, and not forcibly.

He said: This maneuver reflects the Sudanese authorities' fears about the outcome of the Abuja negotiations. Should the negotiations succeed and the Front's regime agree to the basic demands of the National Democratic Rally—the end of the dictatorial regime, turning to a democratic system, and holding elections—then the ruling regime will lose. But should the negotiations fail, then we expect the war to escalate and to continue between the north and the south, and therefore we expect more pressure on the regime's collapsing economy.

He added: We expect the international community to set up safe havens for bringing relief to those affected by the war in the south, or rather, the intervention of foreign forces. This also will mean a failure for the regime, which will then be threatened from the domestic and southern fronts.

He went on to say: The current regime is seeking a "false peace" in order to consolidate its continued rule. It is talking about special laws for the north and others for the south. But we are seeking real peace and Sudan's stability and development in order to fulfill the Sudanese people's hopes and ambitions.

Opposition Radio Station To Broadcast From Mediterranean

PM0405134693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Apr-4 May 93 p 18

[Unattributed report: "Radio Station for Sudanese Opposition"]

[Text] A Sudanese radio station is expected to begin transmission to Sudan for the Sudanese opposition from somehere in the southern Mediterranean. It has been reported that the Sudanese "legitimate" military command is the proponent of the idea, and that it is supervising the radio station.

The station will use the name "Voice of Sudan"—the same name as that used by the Sudanese opposition's station when it transmitted from Ethiopia before the downfall of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime. The station is expected to serve the "legitimate" military command, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (Colonel John Garang's movement), and the other Democratic National Grouping parties opposed to Al-Bashir's government.

Kuwait

* Assembly Deputy Speaker Discusses Investigation

93AE0463A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 7

[Interview with Kuwaiti National Assembly Deputy Speaker Salih al-Fidalah by Hamad al-Jasir; place and date not given: "Parliamentary Investigation Into Embezzlement Cases Will Not Lead to Clash With Government"]

[Text] The deputy speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly (parliament) Salih al-Fidalah, believes it unlikely that the Kuwaiti parliamentary investigations into cases of embezzlement of public funds will lead to a clash between the government and the Assembly. However, he said that parties "hostile to democracy in Kuwait are trying to bring about such a clash."

Al-Fidalah explained in an interview with AL-HAYAH that the parliamentary fact-finding committee, which he leads and which is looking into events of the Iraqi invasion, is still conducting extensive investigations with Kuwaiti military personnel in order to learn the deficiencies and errors that led to the successful Iraqi invasion of the country. Al-Fidalah believes that the Kuwaiti authorities' single-handed rule in the absence of democratic life was the first of these mistakes.

Al-Fidalah rejected the charge that the Assembly was preoccupied with marginal issues and unable to resolve the problems that concern the citizens. He said that the Assembly "had established constitutional precedents and democratic practices that will guide the country in the future."

The following is the text of the interview:

[Al-Jasir] There is a general feeling in Kuwait that the National Assembly has not achieved much since the start of its activities in October 1992. What is your view of that?

[Al-Fidalah] Yes, a feeling like that exists. Perhaps the cause of that stems from the last elections, when many candidates made promises to do things for voters. Now, voters feel that these promises have not been kept with the speed that was anticipated. However, the fact is that the National Assembly, in its current legislative session, has done many things in a short while. Regarding the oversight function, delegates submitted 430 parliamentary questions regarding security, economic, political, and other subjects, while the government has only answered 30 questions. In the legislative area, the deputies submitted 80 draft bills to restore matters to their proper path, to correct existing erroneous conditions, or to establish new concepts by the deputies.

However, the most important National Assembly accomplishment was establishing constitutional precedents and supports. In accordance with announcement of the results of the legislative elections on 5 October 1992, the winning candidates formed a delegation of 10 members to meet with the country's emir and crown prince. They discussed with them the new governmental structure. It was agreed that six deputies would enter the government as members and that they would chose the ministries whose portfolios they wished to assume.

This is considered a precedent in Kuwait's political life and a development of the principle of popular participation in the government. Assemblies in the future will be guided by this same precedent, so as to achieve a real consensus between the National Assembly and the government.

[Al-Jasir] Some journalists have attacked the National Assembly recently, accusing it of being preoccupied with marginal issues at the expense of more important problems. Is this true?

[Al-Fidalah] The press has the right to write whatever it wishes. It is called the license of the Fourth Estate. However, our bills and efforts in the Assembly will bear fruit after the passing of a little time. The most significant piece of legislation so far is the law that protects public funds, which has been approved, and a housing protection bill, which will be enacted soon.

[Al-Jasir] In a statement published recently, Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah warned about a clash between the National Assembly and the government. Do you think reasons for such a clash exist?

[Al-Fidalah] I do not share the view of those who say a clash will occur between the government and Assembly, but I do say that there are those who are now pushing for such a clash. I ask those in the government to work harder for cooperation and coordination to prevent consequences like that.

On the other hand, one should not interpret every dispute, with regard to positions of both the government and the deputies, as something that will lead to a clash. It is the nature of parliamentary life that there will be constant variance in points of view. These differences are for the public good in the long run.

I would reiterate that there are anti-democratic parties who are trying to stir things up. They are not pleased that we have a parliament and a democratic life.

[Al-Jasir] In the recent past, Kuwait has lived in an atmosphere of consecutive financial scandals with regard to its foreign and domestic investments. Do you think the issue of investment embezzlements abroad or the debt issue will form a basis for future confrontation between the National Assembly and the government?

[Al-Fidalah] Not at all. We have an agreement with the government concerning these issues. It has made more than one statement in the Assembly and, at the highest levels, asserted that it would be against those who attempt to steal public funds. The government has no reservations about the investigation of any person, no

matter what his position, and will refer him to the courts. In fact, the judiciary is now looking into several cases of this type.

I do not think that the Assembly 's oversight efforts with regard to public funds will lead to a cooling off of its relations with the government. We do not anticipate that the government will become angry over parliamentary auditing. On the contrary, one assumes that it will be more anxious to oppose the fat cats who steal the people's money.

[Al-Jasir] Kuwaiti foreign policy was the object of criticism by deputies in the Assembly. What policy do you want for Kuwait?

[Al-Fidalah] Kuwaiti foreign policy needs reviewing and thought in order to bring it in line with the present stage. One assumes that the foreign policy decision-maker's mindset is totally different from what it was before 2 August 1990 because circumstances have changed and events have imposed new methods and various developments.

The deputies have discussed this issue at length, and the subject of foreign policy has been referred to a special parliamentary committee for study so that a new and different direction can be determined.

[Al-Jasir] Does the new parliamentary thinking support restoring relations with those countries that supported Iraq? What would be the conditions for that?

[Al-Fidalah] My personal view is that Kuwait should take a firm stance against the countries that supported Iraq, because these countries wanted us dead when we were helping them to live. They wanted our people to be homeless, while we were giving them funds to develop their economies and their people. We denied ourselves things, while supporting their central banks.

These countries do not merit our restoring relations with them until their positions change completely from their current ones and they apologize to our people in a practical way, by means of boycotting the Iraqi aggressor. They must look at us in a completely different way, recognizing that we are an independent nation and people who deserve to exercise their sovereignty over their own territory. If that is sincerely done, resuming relations need not be delayed.

I would be remiss here unless I pointed out that some groups and persons in some of those countries stood loyally beside us during the ordeal. We harbor good feelings for those groups, even if their governments' positions were unconscionable.

[Al-Jasir] The parliamentary fact-finding committee that you lead has held a number of meetings with military commanders in the Army. Have you been able to draw a precise picture of the events of the Iraqi invasion, and have you determined responsibilities in military command circles?

[Al-Fidalah] A committee to ascertain the facts concerning the criminal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was formed at the start of Assembly business because of a strong desire by a majority of members. The committee divided the invasion's events into four categories or segments: military, political, financial, and the media.

Up to now, the committee has been occupied with the military and political segments and has had many meetings, interviews, and hearings with military and political leaders who have some connection with events. We are still investigating and collecting information. We shall submit a preliminary report of our findings within the next few days.

[Al-Jasir] Did the politicians and military commanders give a clear picture of what happened on the morning of 2 August 1990?

[Al-Fidalah] We are still investigating, and our agenda includes meeting with scores of military personnel. It would be premature to report that we are forming a comprehensive picture of the invasion's events.

[Al-Jasir] If Salih al-Fidalah had been Kuwaiti prime minister on 15 July 1990 (the date Iraq presented its memorandum concerning the dispute with Kuwait and was preparing for attack), how would he have acted? Would it have been possible to avoid the invasion that followed the memorandum two weeks later?

[Al-Fidalah] If, at that time, any prime minister had examined the statutes and laws and used them to reach specific conclusions to which he could resort in order to counter the crisis, he might have come up with something, but that official rejected the laws and violated the Constitution. This does not qualify him for the job (of defending the Constitution).

[Al-Jasir] Are you accusing the government of being derelict—militarily, in security matters, and diplomatically—in facing the Iraqi threat? What was this dereliction, and what were the mistakes that it made?

[Al-Fidalah] What happened on 2 August was a tragedy. To face up to any tragedy, the person responsible must study the various possibilities and act in light of available information in order to protect Kuwait. The prime minister has many powers, and presumably he could have used those resources available to him to investigate the matter.

However, in Kuwait at that time there was no Constitution. The National Assembly had been suspended, and the Cabinet was operating without constitutional legitimacy. This was the first mistake. When work was suspended under the 1962 Constitution, the government singlehandedly made decisions, and it bears responsibility for that. Kuwait should have faced the threat with joint leadership from the government and the National Assembly. Then, it would have been able to prevent the tragedy or lessen its impact.

[Al-Jasir] If the National Assembly had existed at that time, what could it have proposed to counter the Iraqi threat?

[Al-Fidalah] I am unable to answer that, because the National Assembly did not exist.... The mission of the parliamentary fact-finding committee now is to determine what should have been done and what, in fact, was done. What are the mistakes that occurred, and could they have been avoided?

[Al-Jasir] The National Assembly has, so far, not said a word about the defensive agreements that the government concluded with the United States, Britain, and France. What is your opinion?

[Al-Fidalah] The Assembly has referred the matter of agreements to a special parliamentary committee to study. The committee will also study the country's defensive and security strategies in light of the current circumstances.

[Al-Jasir] In a poll conducted by the Kuwaiti News Agency, 64 percent of citizens rejected the principle of seeking help from Arab forces to defend Kuwait. Why do Kuwaitis take this position?

[Al-Fidalah] Because some feel that agreements with the Western countries are adequate to resolve the problem of national security, for the present time at least, because the Western countries have superior military capabilities.

With regard to Arab forces, I personally cannot forget their role played in the war to liberate Kuwait. This includes Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi Arabian forces, along with the rest of the other Arab nations that contributed, especially the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Kuwaiti people do not downplay the role of the Arab soldier in the liberation of Kuwait. The Arabs are our refuge and family in the last resort. They are indispensable for us, even with agreements with Western nations.

Oman

Lebanon's al-Hariri Arrives on 2-Day Visit 3 May

JN0305142093 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 May 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanese prime minister, and his delegation arrived in the country at noon today on a two-day visit to the sultanate, during which he will have talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus and a number of ranking Omani officials.

His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs led those who received al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

Sultan Qabus Receives al-Hariri

JN0305152493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Muscat, 3 May (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received here today Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

For Oman, the meeting was attended by Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas; Civil Service Minister [title as received] Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-Nabi Makki; and Housing Minister Malik Bin-Sulayman al-Mi'mari.

For Lebanon, Minister of State for Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt, and Information Minister Michel Samahah attended.

Joint Communique Issued

NC0405123893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 93

["Text" of Lebanese-Omani joint communique issued on the occasion of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit to Oman—read by announcer]

[Text] Proceeding from the fraternal relations between the Lebanese and Omani peoples, out of faith in the need to promote these ties, and at the invitation of His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri paid an official visit to Oman from 3 to 4 May at the head of an official delegation. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Prime Minister al-Hariri, who conveyed the greetings and appreciation of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. During the meeting, al-Hariri and Sultan Qabus discussed bilateral relations and the means to promote them in various fields to serve the interests of both peoples. They also discussed Arab and international issues of common concern.

The Omani and Lebanese delegations held official talks characterized by amity, cooperation, and full understanding. The talks dealt with issues that concern both countries. Proceeding from the Sultanate of Oman's desire to support the Lebanese Government's efforts to consolidate stability in Lebanon and strengthen its unity and sovereignty, the Omani Government decided to reopen its embassy in Beirut.

The Lebanese delegation reviewed the reconstruction plan that involves reorganizing and equipping the Lebanese University, the housing plan, and the return of the displaced people. The Omani side showed understanding of the importance of the plan to help Lebanon restore its local and international role. The Omani side said it appreciates these efforts and promised to help with the reorganization of the Lebanese University, the housing plan, and the return of the displaced people.

Prime Minister al-Hariri expressed his appreciation of Sultan Qabus and Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id. He wished the fraternal Omani people prosperity and success under the wise leadership of Sultan Qabus.

Al-Hariri Holds Talks, Departs 4 May

JN0405160493 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has left Muscat concluding a two-day visit to Oman, during which he held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and top state officials. Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, led the farewell party. [passage omitted]

Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id and Rafiq al-Hariri led their respective teams in a round of official talks held this morning. The deputy prime minister opened the session by welcoming the Lebanese prime minister. Yesterday's meeting between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and Mr. al-Hariri, Fahd remarked, laid the foundations for the bilateral relations, which he described as good. The deputy prime minister said that the Lebanese Government's new approach should help considerably toward the rehabilitation of Lebanon. His highness pointed out the need to ease the burden that has been encumbering the Lebanese people. The future will favor the brother Lebanese, he added, and hoped the talks will prove beneficial to the two countries.

For his part, al-Hariri expressed his satisfaction with the talks he had with His Majesty Sultan Qabus, and said they have laid the groundwork for cooperation between the Sultanate and Lebanon.

In a speech responding to His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, al-Hariri said he was optimistic relations between the two countries will solidify and develop still further. He noted the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Oman.

Al-Hariri said the Lebanese Government and people are determined to rebuild their country. In that effort, he added, it is vital that lebanon get the support of brothers and friends, particulary the Arab countries that can afford it. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Denies Discussing Terrorism With Iran

LD0405195893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general, replied to an SPA question concerning an IRNA report, quoted by REUTER, on allegations concerning terrorism.

He said that during his meeting with Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, Iranian ambassador to the Kingdom, on 27 April, they discussed only matters of common interest, especially the transportation of Iranian pilgrims this year by Saudi Airlines and Iran-Air. No talks took place with the ambassador on terrorism.

Government Recognizes Republic of Eritrea

LD0405201393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Proceeding from the strong ties and relations between Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Eritrea, and in order to strengthen the historical relations between the two fraternal peoples, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to recognize the Republic of Eritrea. It expresses its wishes to the Eritrean people for stability, security, progress, and prosperity.

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations With Ethiopia Established

JN0505103893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 May (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Ethiopia decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today, 5 May out of their eagerness to develop bilateral relations.

This was announced in a joint communique issued in Abu Dhabi and Addis Ababa at the end of the visit to the UAE by Ethiopian Prime Minister Tamirat Layne. [passage omitted]

UN Team Says 'Basic Elements' of Nuclear Program Destroyed

NC0405153193 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 4 (AFP)—Iraq's nuclear weapons program has largely been destroyed but too little is known about its suppliers to guarantee the program will not be rebuilt, a U.N. arms expert said here Tuesday.

"The major components of their program are reasonably well mapped and the basic elements are destroyed," according to Richard Hooper, the head of a 14-member U.N. team visiting Iraq.

"Certainly under any kind of monitoring program as it is currently envisioned, it will certainly be difficult for them to reconstitute their program," he told AFP.

But Iraq has not told the United Nations all it needs to know about how and where it obtained nuclear technology, he added. "Certainly to know that procurement network in detail is important for the long-term monitoring."

Iraq's nuclear centers were destroyed during the 1991 Gulf War or dismantled during the 19 U.N. nuclear inspection visits since the conflict, he said.

The centers included al-Qa'im, 450 kilometers (270 miles) west of Baghdad, al-Jazirah and al-Sharqat, near Mosul, 400 kilometers (240 miles) north of Baghdad, and near the capital, Tarmiya, al-Athir and Tuwaytha.

'Minutes' of Saddam-Papal Envoy Meeting

JN0505045893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 May 93

["Full official text" of the "minutes" of President Saddam Husayn's meeting with Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of Oriental Congregations at the Vatican, in Baghdad on 3 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Those attending the meeting for Iraq were: 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

Those attending from his excellency's office were: 'Abd Hamid Mahmud, secretary to the president of the Republic, and 'Abd-al- Jabbar Muhsin, press secretary to the president of the Republic.

[Saddam] Welcome. How was your trip? Certainly, it was tiring, particularly on the way from Amman to Baghdad.

[Silvestrini] It was not very tiring. However, we passed through a strong desert storm.

[Saddam] This year, we asked the United Nations to allow Iraqi pilgrims to travel to the holy places in Mecca by air, especially since most of them are old people and cannot travel by car. Or, let us say that travel on planes is easier. Although some brother officials hoped they would get approval for this request, I was not optimistic because I know the United Nations. Therefore, I did not expect anything positive from it.

[Silvestrini] I believe it is better to restore all air flights.

[Saddam] We assume so. I welcome you again. You know the East, and we do not want to add anything to people's habits and beliefs, and effects their thinking.

[Silvestrini] Mr. President: My mission is not a political one. In fact, it is a purely religious mission. This is because I am a man of religion and in charge of oriental congregations, particularly the Chaldean churches. Before I left Rome, I was honored by a special audience with the pope. During this meeting, he entrusted me with informing Your Excellency that he is very close to the Iraqi people, that he is aware of the Iraqis' suffering, and prays every day so as this suffering will end. He told me that he hoped that your wisdom would find a way out of this situation. You are aware of the pope's stand toward the Gulf war. He always said that he was against this war. He still holds this stand. He believes that negotiations are the way to peace in your region as well as in other regions in the world. In particular, he believes that all people should be given a chance to establish cordial relations with the other people. Certainly, to achieve this objective, there should be a way to enforce international law in all its dimensions. I hope that Your Excellency's government will be able to find this way.

Two years have passed since the end of the war. This is a long time in which the world has seen many developments and the emergence of new problems. A feeling has also emerged even in the Middle East that some kind of a coexistence may be achieved among the states in the region which was seen as an impossible thing to achieve. At the same time, the pope hopes a humanitarian view, characterized by a spirit of fraternity among all peoples, would dominate. Nowadays, there is no problem that cannot be resolved through negotiations. His holiness also hopes a new spirit of reconciliation will prevail among all Muslim and Christian states everywhere in the world.

The pope has visited many countries in the world, and he meets with the Muslim community in every country he visits. He believes that Christianity and Islam provide the major moral power for humanity. Communism has collapsed and materialistic atheism has also begun to collapse.

Faced with the many problems of humanity—such as the problems of food and poverty in third world countries, as well as the need for disarmament to avert war—Islam and Christianity can cooperate closely because they both enjoy common values, including the belief in God, praying, fraternity among peoples, sympathy toward the others, and aiding the poor. All of these values are common to both Christianity and Islam. If we look into and assess the demographic population factor, we will see that the Muslims are the majority in the world.

Therefore, if we look at things realistically, we must understand that peace is based on the feelings of the believers more than on the legal structure. Even world institutions need moral support from people who believe in God and the spirit of fraternity among human beings. The pope is, therefore, optimistic. He thinks that if we move toward the genuine religious feelings, we will be able to resolve all problems. This is the message I carry and it is a message of hope and appreciation addressed to Your Excellency.

[Saddam] Welcome. I welcome you once again. The basic principles in the pope's message to us are general human ones, and there is no room for anyone to object to them. Despite your argument that your mission is religious, any principles coped with in connection with specific human activities should have a link with these human activities in one form or another. I believe that the pope meant this and not only the general principles. As we talk, for example, about the desire for peace and about dependence on our wisdom to achieve it, as he said, and find a solution to the Iraqi people's suffering, I will remind you that it was the messenger Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, who came carrying with him the principles of peace and tolerance, but could not achieve peace for himself, due to a certain wisdom of Almighty God, and that his honesty and faith could not prevent the treachery of Judas.

So, these are the principles of peace and this is what faces it on the earth. Therefore, I believe that when we talk about principles at a certain stage to stress immunity in its living meaning, we have to say who is wrong and who is right. Wisdom should be a basic trait of a leader, and a desire for peace is the essence of wisdom in any leader. But what is the use of wisdom outside our borders with those who committed aggression against us? It is useful in that it makes us adhere to the teachings of Almighty God, and it is useful in offering moral energy to the leader and making him believe he is right. Therefore, his capability increases so that he can persuade his people. When his capabilities are derived from that source, then this will make him bear injustice for a long time while he rejects that injustice.

Please extend my regards to the pope and tell him that this is what we are doing right now. Thanks be to God, our people are patient. They are also believers. They reject injustice, and they have rejected and opposed it with a rare courage. At the same time, and based on the values they believe in, our people think the future will be prosperous.

In previous circumstances, some may have misunderstood the issue of Kuwait and failed to understand who provoked the other first. But what after all that time? Is the truth not yet clear? Those who attacked us on the night of 17 January 1991 were criminals. They planned that aggression long before and created a cover to conceal their poisonous teeth for a long time. Some people then said that the attack was probably aimed at driving the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait, but what after that; that is, after the Iraqi Army left it? Did the Iraqi children fight in Kuwait? Did old people and women fight in Kuwait? And, where are the human rights that some people brag about and then say they are genuine Christians? George Bush, for example, claimed that he is a genuine Christian and used to say that he prays. But he came to kill children in a sadistic, professional manner; slowly.

I hope that you will pass information to the pope on the condition of hospitals in Iraq to see how the children are dying because of the shortage of food and medicine and because of the lack of purified, potable water. All this is happening despite the fact that the Iraqi Army is no longer in Kuwait. These things were done to a country for the first time in the history of humanity.

So, how can we refute the presumption that everything that happened against this country was because it is an Arab and Muslim country? There are also 20,000 Muslim women who were raped in the Bosnia because of their religion. I first thought this was only propaganda. But I was convinced when I asked Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is a Christian, do you think that what we hear is true? He said: Yes, and even more horrible things have occurred.

Yet, Iraq has never made any short-sighted statements for propaganda purposes, which usually yield nothing. I believe that the pope is required to absolve Christianity of these evil and disgraceful acts so that no ignorant linkage may be made between Christianity and any acts carried out on its behalf here or there. I am here referring to the acts of which you, the pope, and we are well aware. Please convey my greetings to the pope and tell him Saddam Husayn says that wisdom enabled us to reconstruct what was destroyed by aggression, that it also enabled us, after relying on the one Almighty God, to share the loaf as one nation, including Christians and Muslims and the different religions and sects, and that it enabled us to retain the spark of faith in our minds and consciences and in their right direction without any grudge, imbalance, or weakness.

We hope that God will use the oppression imposed on our people as a test of faith for the soul, since Almighty God purifies the soul as he wishes. We also have an absolute faith that this example will be a good one and an evidence of faith, love, capability, and peace for mankind.

[Silvestrini] Your Excellency the President: I listened with great care to what you have said. My duty now is to convey your answer to the pope. I understand your position and I share your thinking about the Iraqi people's suffering. At the same time, I believe that what we can do is not a trial to unveil the criminals. Rather, we have to explore the pragmatic and practical opportunities for overcoming this crisis. In this I express my personal view, as the pope did not ask me to offer certain proposals. In this I also express my feelings toward the current situation.

I am a man of religion, and my mission in life is to serve God and society. As Your Excellency said, patience is necessary, and as God is great and our father and caretaker, he expects man to change. Therefore, what we can do is to see some bases and rules in the future.

Your country has great historical traditions, and great resources and achievements. In my opinion, Iraq can, and, in fact, should contribute to worldwide human efforts. It is not necessary to take an accounting of what was wrong and what was right regarding what has already taken place. In fact, I believe that we should study the facts available to us in the current situation. Two years have passed on the war, and world public opinion is no longer as strict against Iraq as it was in the past. In general, we can say that all good people expect an end to this bitter experience; namely, the Gulf war experience. These feelings, which will develop and grow in the future, must be relied upon. We must also take into consideration that there are possibilities of making some progress on the way to peace. You should prove to the world that your country is not an element for sabotage, but a factor for balance in the world. Therefore, all capabilities should be viewed in a creative way and with an open mind. I believe that you should also take some initiatives, which show good intentions, even if there is no immediate or tangible return on these initiatives. However, this will act as a seed which will bear fruit later on. You should contribute to clearing the poisonous atmospheres. Efforts must be consecrated to nurse mankind's wounds. In Christ's biography, there is a story which was told in a form of an example; namely, the example of the good Samaritan. The theme of the story is that there was a man who used to travel from Jerusalem to Jericho. Once, he was attacked and beaten by gangsters. They left him dying on the road. Here, the good Samaritan passed and stopped to help him. He carried him on his horse to the nearest hostel to treat him. Jesus Christ says that this is the first good thing man can do; namely, to help whoever needs help. I gave this example because I believe that he who knows how to discard differences and the spirit of revenge, even in international and diplomatic life, and devotes himself to helping humanity, is wiser and knows more. If you allow me Your Excellency, I would like to give my opinion about you very cordially. I would like to say that the prevailing impression in the whole world is that what Your Excellency does not lack is courage. You are a courageous person. Your courage is recognized even by your opponents. You have showed this courage through your struggle, and you can also demonstrate it through peace. The great deeds which head toward future are those requiring courage. They are not small daily issues.

Courage, of course, entails the virtue of pardoning when one is able to pardon, and this is an attribute of noble, open-minded men. Your success in overcoming the crisis resulting from the Gulf war gives you a credibility to reach peace and lead the peace process. He who does not want peace would not make any initiative to achieve it. I believe that there must be feelings marked by new openness. There are various trends to achieve peace: For example, finding a means to implement the UN requirements. But, I think this alone is not sufficient, because there are always discussions on how to interpret the executive measures. Therefore, the matter requires at the same time studying some of the possibilities for rapprochement with the regional states; I mean that difficult, complicated, and slow process—the Middle East peace conference, which I do not think will lead to results in the near future because there are many complications. But what is certain is that the basic point in the whole subject is the Israeli position, which is linked to cooperation between the United States and Israel, as well as to the Israeli view of the regional order. I do not think that Israel can hope for a future stable regional order that excludes Iraq and keeps it isolated. Therefore, I have a great request to make of Your Excellency. Why do you not test the waters with Israel? I believe that such an initiative would be a political and a diplomatic one that would enjoy the support of EC member states, such as France, Italy, Germany, and Spain, which would in turn be open to see a successful end to the idea of reconciliation between you two. I think that all industrial nations, particularly the European ones, when they become certain that oil supplies from your country will continue to arrive, will have no reason to stand against your country, which enjoys great potential for work and constitutes a factor for balance in the region.

I am fully aware that the ideas I have expressed might seem utopian. However, in my previous experience, when I was at the State Secretariat, I learned that missions which look impossible can be realized. I had a long experience in handling relations with communist and Marxist states. We held negotiations with them over decades on religious freedom. Our impression at the time was that our mission appeared elusive. However, thanks to our perseverance and patience, we gradually brought about the collapse of communism.

[Announcer says Saddam smiles at the paradox of Silvestrini's statement]

[Silvestrini] This was certainly not the result of our efforts. It is mainly attributable to divine providence. At the time, nobody entertained the notion that communist countries could collapse. I believe that we must be convinced that man is capable of change, and that it is only God who remains.

I apologize for this lengthy speech. I would like to reaffirm that these are merely ideas which I express out of my faith in the wisdom and courage of Your Excellency. Ideas, just like things, can be either accepted or rejected. The important thing is to think of the available possibilities. I do not think that there are limits to man's creativity when he is courageous and desirous of prosperity for his country. Likewise, I believe that you are capable of resolving this problematic issue—I pray to God for this—so that an opportunity for peace and cooperation in the whole Middle East region can be created.

As I have previously said, I was not asked by the pope to communicate these ideas to you. Only the first portion of my talk concerns the message of his holiness the pope. These ideas are personal contributions and sentiments I wanted to communicate to Your Excellency the President, particularly since I have seen the reconciliation experienced by the Iraqi people. Thank you once again for the patience you have demonstrated by listening to me.

[Saddam] In that respect, in respect of patience to listen to what you have said just now, yes, I think I deserve to be thanked. Our mind is always open to listen to any, and every thing. We have sufficient courage to pronounce the opinion we believe in and under all circumstances. Therefore, we are discussing politics now. You have called them personal views, but you have said them in front of a head of state. I thought about not commenting on them, or that I should leave comment to the Foreign Ministry or to your colleague the minister of awqaf and religious affairs. But I told myself that by not commenting on them, some people may claim they are acceptable.

As I said at the beginning of my statements in reply to the humanitarian and religious principles which the pope has kindly spoken about, I say we can talk about many humanitarian and religious principles without finding anyone to oppose them. But the difficulty, which may reach the point of estrangement between two or more parties at times, arises when we turn these principles into practice. We in Iraq also pray that all people would change for the better in the direction of the values desired by God; no aggression, no aggressiveness, no usurpation of rights, no displacement of nations and peoples from their homes, no injustice against the poor, and no domination of certain people over others. On that subject, I do not hide the fact that we may seem fatalistic in our view of many leaders in the world, because we do not expect anything good from many of them in terms of the humanitarian standards. We have tested them in difficult circumstances, and we are still testing them daily and know that many of them may change. But they change in relative terms from a previous to a later position and the motive is their interests and the criteria is the possible and the impossible. The criteria is not what is right and what is not, what is just and what is not, what is correct and what is not, and what is fair and what is not.

Therefore, while we seem fatalistic in our view of many world leaders because we do not expect anything good from them in terms of what God desires, we are, at the same time, populists in our view of the people. We view all peoples and nations on earth, irrespective of their religion, beliefs, and creeds, as being equal in the humanitarian values. We believe they have the right to live in whichever way they choose, but not at the expense of the inalienable rights of the others.

What is our criterion of inalienable rights? It is international law in today's world expressed by the UN principles, not its application. Under the UN cover and in light of the influence and known objectives of the major countries, women and children were killed under the pretext that the responsible quarters are only implementing the UN resolutions. They are still being premeditatedly killed under these pretexts and covers.

Despite all that took place in Iraq we were not shaken in our human standards and views vis-a-vis other nations. Neither did we turn to religious, racist, or sectarian fanaticism. You have met with Iraqi Christians and you should have acquainted yourself with their conditions and reached a conclusion. The certain thing here is that relations within this country are not based on religious fanaticism. No minority in our country is alienated and all citizens are equal in terms of principles and practical implementation.

I thank you for speaking about the courage attributed to us. I believe and know that courage is one of the characteristics of men. If an ordinary man has to be courageous, what will it be like if this man is a responsible man and a head of state and people. However, I also believe that courage is not sufficient when this man is a responsible person. A responsible person should also be faithful, wise, tolerant, and firm. Each case should be dealt with in view of its own conditions. All these qualities are linked with the comprehensive meaning of wisdom and with the courage of faith on which the responsible person relies.

How can we describe this or that step as brave or not brave? The answer is that the brave step should be based on the origin of the principles with which a responsible person deals with his people. If Saddam Husayn speaks with hypocrisy about some of the ideas which you have presented now, the people of Iraq will have the right to dismiss him from his post. Why? The answer is: They will say to him: You are speaking about flexibility while we are starving to death. Therefore, you are accepting in one way or another the conditions dictated on you at the expense of our dignity, blood, and suffering.

Let us directly discuss the subject after speaking about principles. You know that geographically, Iraq does not border on Israel since it is in the far east of the Arab homeland, and that is why the Arabs call Iraq their eastern flank.

Furthermore, who are the ones who were expelled from the land of Palestine? Are they the Iraqis or the Palestinians? Hence, let the Palestinians first accept a just and comprehensive solution, and then the Iraqis's turn will come to be asked about their position. But the Iraqis should be asked after they regain their humanity in order to give their views away from coercion, and in natural and not difficult circumstances.

In all cases, we believe that everything in mankind can change except the constants of the faith that may change at a certain stage. But these constants return and survive

in another stage. Maybe not in the same man who abandoned them, but in the hearts of other people. Therefore, we believe that when a solution for any issue is found—if this solution wanted to be final and real—it should be just and comprehensive, and that its parties should be convinced of this solution in balanced circumstances, because this solution bears these traits.

Al-Sadat, may God has mercy on his soul—because the living should pray for mercy for the dead—was told that if you accept Camp David solution you will be the No.1 brave man. He went ahead and signed on the solution in accordance with the known results of Camp David. But an ordinary citizen in the Armed Forces which were parading in front of him came out of his tank and opened fire on him, killing him amid all security measures arranged for him. The crisis continued to search for a full and comprehensive solution that is convincing to its parties in balanced circumstances.

When prospects for development in Iraq loomed on the horizon—a development that would have achieved a sort of psychological and operational balance, which could in turn have brought about a balanced, comprehensive, and just solution—the evildoers, who are not after peace, even though they raise slogans about it, massed themselves to strike at Iraq, even though it was a potentially powerful balancing factor.

And only now, there is talk of a search for peace after the balance has been completely disturbed. And now, the people who are dying of hunger due to food and medicine shortages are being asked to express their views in this regard. History as well as the Arab nation will express their views regarding those negotiating with the Israelis at the negotiating table nowadays, and tell whether they were courageous or cowards in light of the results that will be achieved. This will be contingent upon the acceptance or rejection by the Palestinian people of any solution that could be reached. This will depend on whether or not the Palestinian people have been convinced of any solution that may be reached. This conviction will be an answer to the question: Do these results include a just, comprehensive, and balanced solution in light of the balance of powers. Once the Palestinians and Arabs term the negotiators courageous in light of the results they may achieve then the Iraqis will not hesitate to become part of the general courage for reaching such results. If the Iraqis were to express their views at present, God forbid, before such an outcome and constants are reached, then history, myself, and the Arab nation might say that the Iraqis have abandoned their principles in which they believe to win a badly needed loaf of bread or a bottle of medicine obligingly obtained from abroad—something which we deem to be the very essence of disgrace. Almighty God is merciful.

My greetings to the pope. I would like to continue my talk with you, but I have an appointment with Iraqi citizens and I am late for the appointment. I am forced to tell them that you have delayed me.

[Silvestrini] Thank you, Mr. President. I highly appreciate what you have said about Christians in Iraq as no fanaticism is being practiced against them and the minorities do not suffer from any unequal treatment. I particularly appreciate what you did and what you are doing for the Christians in Iraq, particularly the Catholics. I would like to affirm to Your Excellency that I will convey your message to the pope, hoping that our talks will result in dwelling on the situation and in improving it.

Finally, I would like also to affirm to Your Excellency that we will continue our prayers to almighty God to help you and to grant you in peace the same courage you showed in war.

[Saddam] Peace is one of the attributes of God. Any believer who does not move toward peace cannot be a real believer.

The leader president then bade his guest farewell.

RCC Orders Border Closure, Withdraws 25-Dinar Banknote

JN0505055693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has ordered the closure of Iraq's borders as of 0800 [0400 GMT] on Wednesday, 5 May, until 2400 [2000 GMT] on Monday, 10 May. The RCC order came in accordance with a proposal made by the Finance Ministry to execute RCC Decree 79 issued on 4 May 1993 that withdraws the 25-dinar banknote—which carries the markings "H.P." and which is printed abroad—from circulation.

The RCC order excludes official Iraqi delegates and official Arab and foreign delegations.

Central Bank Begins Changing Banknotes

JN0505100193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—The Central Bank and its branches in al-Basrah and Mosul, as well as the al-Rafidayn and al- Rashid branches have begun changing the 25-dinar banknote bearing the markings "H.P." in the numerator to the right of the serial number.

Central Bank Governor Tariq Talib al-Takmaji told INA that in accordance with Revolution Command Council Decree No. 79 issued yesterday, the bank is withdrawing the 25-dinar banknote.

The Central Bank governor said those who have this bill, printed outside Iraq between 1978 and 1986 and commonly known as the Swiss version, can change their money with its equivalent in the legally circulated national currency.

He added that after 10 May, this banknote shall be illegal and invalid.

Saddam Addresses al-Anbar Delegation

JN0405152493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1118 GMT 4 May 93

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during a ceremony in which dignitaries from al-Anbar Governorate took an oath of allegiance before the president on 3 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] May God salute the men of al-Anbar. May God salute the people known for their loyalty. Many years ago—I think it was four or five years after the inception of the revolution—I, along with the late Abu-Haytham [not further identified] were leaving Baghdad for al-Anbar and then for the al-Tharthar Dam project in a single car. We were planning to inspect work at the al-Tharthar Dam. This was in 1972, I guess. We entered al-Anbar Governorate from a certain direction. When they saw the motorcade, people did not expect it to be an official one. I did not see anybody shaking hands with us. Nobody was there. He was sort of unhappy. I addressed him, saying: Take it easy. The people do not know who we are. Besides, the presence of cars here is familiar to them. Moreover, you know them. So, there is nothing new. Habitually, these people honor their positions quietly. Once they decide to espouse a certain position, their position remains unchanged. They act just like all noble Iraqis wherever they are. Days went by. However, this particular incident was not forgotten. This is because all incidents have their importance at a particular time. Everyday consumes the one after it, and every hour makes the preceding hour a thing of the past. However, nothing is forgotten. Yes, the days go by. Yet, nothing is relegated to oblivion. This is because there are records that document each and every incident and situation. Whoever finds himself in difficult circumstances needs his men and his kinfolk. He also needs to see people enunciate their positions. After the showdown abated—we would not say that the showdown has been concluded, because it is still going on—we visited al-Anbar. I believe that whoever heard of our visit to al-Anbar took to the streets to welcome us. However, during a later visit made the year after, I believe that fewer people took to the streets to welcome us. I have observed this. Yes, fewer people took to the streets to welcome us during the second visit we made to al-Anbar. One youth informed me of this. I told him that before my arrival, I expected fewer people to show up for my welcoming ceremony. This is because they did not think that the challenge was as tough then as it was on that previous occasion. [applause]

God be praised, for God Almighty has been so gracious with us as to honor the faces of people who are known for honorable positions in situations where honor and nobility are called for. God be praised, for, thanks to His noble grace, we have been rendered able to see right as it is, to see falsehood viewed as such, and to make faithful men, wherever they are and of whatever nationality they are, proud of their great banner, which derives its greatness and immense significance from the words: God is great. [applause]

I told the brothers from your governorate that whenever men meet on occasions of this kind, they always recall from the heart of history the dearest and the most brilliant events that affect men and make them more capable, faithful, modest, and obedient to Almighty God's orders. I say that one of your brothers wanted to remind us of the yellow color in the Arabs' history and that 1,100 years ago, Sayf Bin-Dhai Yazan [pre-Islamic Arab king] came to seek the help of Iraq's Arabs, who sent with 1,000 men to expel foreigners from Yemen.

So, these are the lasting positions. The others, though they are recovered, are not recalled in this meaning. Abu-Rughal [an old Arab traitor who guided Abyssinians to Mecca] is also remembered for another reason. The abnormal case, for example, is cited, but in what sense? It is cited in connection with the [word indistinct]. Satan is among a small number of angels, who were named and given duties, as you know. Not many or all of the angels were named. But the name of Satan was mentioned, but in what case? It was mentioned in connection with all the detestable attributes. Gabriel's name was also mentioned, but in what framework? He was mentioned in another different case.

We learn from God's holy book, and the more we read it, the more we to learn from it. Almighty God, as you and all the faithful know, is capable of doing everything. Despite this, when Satan deviated, along with others, God ordered them to leave paradise, though he pardoned the others, who were Adam and Eve. Adam was not a simple creature. He was a prophet, and, at the same time, he was the cause of the problem with Satan. Yet, God told them to go down to earth but pardoned Adam. There, Satan also has his place. Why? In order to test us all. We are the other chain. Which way will we go, which meaning will we adopt, and which position will we adopt? We remember the history of nations and people. You remember Sayf Bin-Dhi Yazan, and you build on his position. You keep in mind obedience to Almighty God, you adhere to that so as to win God's significance, and you build on this example. These are the Iraqis' positions, this is the Arabs' history, and this is the meaning of faith. Furthermore, a morsel more or less does not matter. As Shaykh al-Hiti said: We do not ask for anything now, but we will later on. Well, can you find such a thing in any nation?

We respect all nations, and all nations are from Adam and Eve. We may say all of them are from Cain. They are from Cain not from Abel, who died.

Despite this, human beings, in terms of humanity and faith, are brothers and sisters. Everyone assumes the position he deserves according to the degree of his faith. We do not belittle any people, but every people have their own characteristics that are based on their own historic course and structure, as well on many factors. As

far as we know—and we know this very well, because our knowledge is not based on books, but on experience and daily and lively links with the people we are talking about; and as an official, this link is a quarter of a century old—I believe this people have meanings on which they can build upon. I do not think that there are many peoples who can build on the same meanings under difficult circumstances. Peoples may talk about these meanings in favorable circumstances, but in difficult circumstances, there are not many peoples that speak about the same meanings, which the people of Iraq speak about and build upon and demand that they be the model.

At one point in the past, I met with a man who came from the West. He was speaking according to his perceptions. From his conversation, I recalled again how badly the West needs the East—how badly it needs the East to purify many souls, overburdened by vice, which distanced them from every major virtue. The Westerners still need the East, the meanings of the East, and even the faith of the East. They still need the models of the East to realize that God Almighty is all powerful and to remember that man, regardless of how strong he thinks he is, is much smaller than he thinks. Talking about the injustice being done now to you, brothers. We used to conclude, we used to assess, and we used to hear that the principal cause for this injustice is your position on Zionism. But after this experience, we are now fully convinced that Zionism is behind everything that befalls you. Anyone who insists on causing harm over and over again—because one might make a mistake once and to err is human—but anyone who insists on causing harm to people, as the days go by, cannot but be linked to Zionism, regardless of where he comes from, and irrespective of his name, be it Arab, foreign, Eastern, or Western. Anyone who insists on harming the people of Iraq must be linked to Zionism and must have a position in line with its positions. But, as long as long the numbers that build on the correct position—the position of glory, pride, and supreme values—is growing, then they will pass, these things will pass and only this position will remain and grow further and further and be blessed by God. It will grow with time, God willing.

Blessed be the men of al-Anbar, blessed be the people of al- Anbar. Say hello to the people of al-Anbar. Send my best regards to the people of al-Anbar [applause, chants]

Talabani Says U.S. To Support Iraqi Opposition

NC0405182593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has emphasized that the United States will support the Iraqi opposition politically, materially, and morally.

Following his meeting with the [country name indistinct] ambassador in Washington, he said the U.S. Administration supports the Iraqi opposition in its efforts to establish a unified and democratic Iraq. He explained that U.S. officials have affirmed to the delegation of the Unified Iraqi National Congress that they will not respond to the Iraqi regime's attempts to normalize relations between Washington and Baghdad.

Villages 'Leveled' in 'Major' Regime Attack on Marshlands

NC0405153293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1340 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Our news sources have confirmed that the regime's 4th Army Corps has launched its expected attack with more than a division supported by battalions of tanks, large-caliber artillery, and Katyusha rocket launchers. Our sources cited eyewitnesses as saying that hundreds of bodies mutilated by tanks are still scattered in dozens of villages attacked by the regime forces west of al-Majarr al-Kabir District in al-'Amarah Governorate.

The sources said 12 villages near the marshlands were leveled by artillery shelling and tank raids. The regime used bulldozers to demolish all vital facilities. Not even cemeteries, farmland, cattle, or other animals escaped destruction. Eyewitnesses stressed that all the residents in al-Hashiriyah, (al-Sulamiyah), al- Musharrah, (al-Maghrabi), and al-Khudayrah have been eliminated, and that survivors were transported in open military vehicles to unknown destinations.

Our sources reported from the marshlands that General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, chief of the regime's Army staff, is in the al-'Amarah marshlands directly supervising the 4th Army Corps' operations in the al-'Amarah Governorate sector. The sources said that warplanes of the U.S.-led international alliance were seen several times flying at low altitude as the regime forces launched their military operations.

Our sources also reported that the sons of the marshland tribes and heroes of the Islamic resistance are relentlessly defending the rest of the women and children in the other villages targeted by the genocidal attack. They stressed that the attacking forces suffered heavy losses. It has been confirmed that the 4th Army Corps' chief of staff, a staff brigadier general, and its director of intelligence, a staff colonel, were killed. Scores of other officers of various ranks also were killed.

Our sources added that scores of soldiers and other ranks were captured by the Islamic resistance forces. They said some of the prisoners reported that they had received strict instructions to eliminate the residents of the region and destroy anything they found along the way. They said their commanders told them that special death squads were operating in the rear lines to catch escapees and those violating the orders. The prisoners also reported that they had been told Saddam was impatiently awaiting news of the attack and that he would generously reward units that fully carried out their missions.

It should be recalled that the media center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq recently reported the magnitude of the regime buildup around the marshlands, expecting the regime to launch major attacks on the marshland areas in the south's al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Basrah Governorates.

Rabin: Referendum or Elections on Territorial Concessions

TA0505110293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised in today's cabinet meeting that if a peace accord reached with the Arabs calls for territorial concessions, it will be decided in a referendum or general elections. Our correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar reports:

Today's cabinet meeting was a continuation of what was said at Sunday's [2 May] meeting. This refers mainly to the dovish remarks by Ministers Shim'on Peres and Moshe Shahal. Peres talked about the need to hold a debate on the permanent arrangement and Shahal referred to the need for the government to make a decision on readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights in return for full peace and security arrangements. The prime minister's message was that the public remarks harm the negotiations since we must be restrained, but his remarks were low key and not made in a preaching tone, according to ministers. The prime minister also spoke about a good atmosphere between our delegations and the Arabs and Palestinians in Washington.

Minister Der'i said the negotiations in Washington are being conducted in an inept way and recalled that the Labor-SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] coalition agreement contains a clause that SHAS has the right to demand a referendum or elections when the time comes to consider the territorial issue. He remarks fell on receptive ears since the prime minister said that it is obvious that we made such a commitment and we will bring the issue to the public for it to decide. There are those who tell me Der'i's remarks are linked to current Labor-SHAS tension. As is known, there was a meeting between Der'i and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin where this tension was broached.

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said today that our delegations must be backed, but we must declare that when the Syrians tell us what they mean by peace, we will be ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights. That means yet another Labor minister has said that we have to take into account that Israel might have to withdraw from the Golan in return for full peace. He said that what the right wing does not want is a settlement, not the PLO; therefore we must note that the Likud has reverted to being bunch of bullies, except that now they do not have Begin to lead them, and bullies without Begin but with Netanyahu pose a horrible menace.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 5 May quotes Minister Shim'on Shetrit as saying that descending from the Golan contradicts government policy, which is prepared to accept Resolution 242, "which calls for a territorial compromise, that means part of the territory is to remain under the control of the State of Israel in order to make sure it has recognized and defensible borders."]

SHAS Demands Referendum

TA0505050993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party is demanding of the government that the Israeli delegation to the peace talks inform the Syrians, Palestinians, and the U.S. Administration that no agreement will be signed before it is approved by referendum in Israel. SHAS says this is anchored in the coalition agreement the party signed with Labor.

Rabin Aide Denies Referendum Promise

TA0505125493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, has denied that Mr. Rabin has notified Minister Arye Der'i that he will hold a referendum before agreements are signed with the Arab delegations to the peace negotiations. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, at a meeting this morning with the prime minister, and later in the cabinet session, Minister Der'i presented the coalition agreement, according to which it is SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] prerogative to ask for a referendum or elections if an agreement is made that includes territorial concession in one of the sectors.

Labor senior officials have said that the whole storm SHAS has been raising regarding the referendum is odd because the coalition agreement includes an explicit commitment by Labor to SHAS that any peace accord that entails ceding territories from under Israel's sovereignty or control will not be signed before it is brought before the people to have their say through a referendum or Knesset elections. A Labor minister told our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that it seems that SHAS wishes to score a fictitious achievement to help it withdraw from the affair of Minister Aloni.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has demanded that the referendum be held now, before the prime minister notifies the other side of concessions. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Knesset plenum is currently debating several motions to the agenda about the negotiations with Syria, and several members of the opposition claim that the prime minister has already announced ceding the entire Golan Heights. The debate is loud and accompanied by loud heckling between the opposition and the coalition benches.

The United Torah Jewry faction announced that it accepts the Labor request to postpone the debate on the motion of no-confidence in the government it had filed following remarks by Minister Aloni against the religion. Labor asked that the debate be postponed due to the prime minister's departure for the EC Council discussions and the foreign minister's official trip to India.

Rabin 'Not Worried' by Peres Remarks

TA0405130493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpts] "Ahead of us lie two decisive weeks in the peace negotiations, which we must accelerate," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told us: "I am not worried about the foreign minister's utterances, but anybody who thinks the negotiations will be completed in two weeks is wrong." [passage omitted]

The prime minister said he does not want to address himself to the remarks of this or that minister, and stressed that the negotiations are proceeding properly.

"It is a lengthy process," he said. "I believe it will take months, and such talk can only harm the talks. We have informed the Americans that we want the talks to continue uninterruptedly, with each delegation leaving in Washington a permanent skeleton staff, and I can tell you that the Syrians are not thrilled about it. As for accelerating the pace of the negotiations, if anybody wants to get them over with and hand over everything to the other side right here and now, that can be done.

"I do not plan to do that. I am very pleased with the progress reports I have received from two subcommittees: the one dealing with the concept or substance of the interim arrangement, and the subcommittee dealing with land and water issues. It would be premature to conclude that we have made a breakthrough, but I would say that a discussion has started about substantial issues. The third subcommittee, the one dealing with human rights, has met in Washington but I have not yet received its report.

"One must bear in mind that these negotiations must culminate in compromises, with Israel giving tangible things and them giving substance; in other words, something related to peace. It is not that simple," Rabin said.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you support Peres' idea about a Jordanian- Palestinian confederation as a permanent solution?

[Rabin] I am prepared to allow the Palestinians to run a few issues, such as health, education, and municipal affairs, while we retain control over security affairs. I do not see the permanent solution in a confederation, because a confederation is formed by two sovereign states. Those who speak about a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation are by definition talking of a Palestinian state, which I oppose. If anybody wants to blow up the negotiations now, let him say what the permanent solution is at this stage. That would blow up the negotiations at once, seeing that this would immediately trigger a debate about the future of Jerusalem. I see a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, and the Americans accept that. A confederation is unacceptable to me. What is more, why talk about an issue that is neither on the agenda nor is a government position?

[Azulay-Katz] Do you feel that cabinet ministers are trying to trip you up?

[Rabin] No, and I am not worried.

[Azulay-Katz] Peres says that the government is actually talking to the PLO; Yosi Sarid says no progress will be made unless there are direct talks with the PLO.

[Rabin] Some coalition members, including Labor ministers, are in favor of talking with the PLO. I am against it because direct talks with the PLO would immediately lead to talk about a permanent arrangement, including the right of return. The delegation members are entitled to consult whoever they want, and we know they consult with Tunis. I am not worried about the talk in the government. Cabinet ministers may voice their opinions, but everybody knows what the government's policy is.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you believe the negotiations with Syria will last months, just as with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] The progress made with the Syrians lies in the fact that they said they are prepared to make peace in exchange for a withdrawal. They never spoke about peace before that. We accept the principle of withdrawal, but we will not discuss the extent of this withdrawal until the Syrians say what the peace they are offering consists of—embassies, open borders, etc. We are mainly expecting al-Asad to say whether peace with him will stand on its own two feet and will not hinge on progress with the other delegations. The precedent set with Egypt, whereby the entire Sinai Peninsula was returned and settlements were uprooted, weighs down on al-Asad and makes it difficult for him to reach a compromise.

[Azulay-Katz] Are you now awaiting al-Asad's reply?

[Rabin] Yes, but it is not that simple.

[Azulay-Katz] What must happen to stimulate the process?

[Rabin] It is a matter of time and good sense. With al-Asad, too, it will take months. It is a situation where everybody digs in his heels. We are not telling the extent of the withdrawal, and they are not telling what they mean by peace.

[Azulay-Katz] And what about the Palestinians?

[Rabin] It cannot be done from one day to the next. In my opinion, it will take another one or two rounds of talks. However, I have informed the Palestinian delegation that if they can raise funds for the territories from the Arab world I will welcome it. For our part, we will invest 200 million shekels in the territories, not from the state budget but from taxes we have collected from the inhabitants of the territories.

[Azulay-Katz] Is all this talk in the government about other solutions harmful?

[Rabin] I do not think so, because both the Palestinians and the Americans —all the sides, in fact—know what the government's position is. That is what counts, and not the utterance of this or that minister.

Peres Rejects Syrian Threat To Quit Negotiations

TA0405165893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening expressed regret over the stabbing of an Israeli citizen in Gaza. Peres said that Israel would not abandon the peace process to those wielding knives and asserted that these actions would not determine the process.

Responding to a question by our Haifa correspondent about the Syrian threat to quit the negotiations, the foreign minister said that any such statement also constituted a threat to Syria itself. Peres noted that it was inconceivable for one party to dictate the other party's positions.

More on Remarks

TA0505065993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he is not frightened by Syria's threats to quit the peace negotiations, noting that any such threat constitutes a threat to Syria itself. Neither does he fear an Israeli civil war in view of the threats voiced by Golan settlers and the worst-case scenarios in the wake of the establishment of the Palestinian police force in the territories presented by Judaea and Samaria settlers. Our correspondent in Haifa Qobi Mandel reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] The foreign minister said the Syrians persist in their obstinacy. They would like Israel to announce that it gives up everything first of all, and only then would they start thinking about peace.

[Peres] Any threat to bolt the negotiations constitutes a threat to Syria itself. We assume that all the sides taking part in the negotiations are interested in them. Nobody is doing anybody a favor by participating in the negotiations. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to us that one side should dictate to the other side what its positions should be. In my opinion, the Syrians must take part in the negotiations as one among equals. Of course, they have the right to insist on their position, but they have no right whatsoever to put their position above ours. It is inconceivable that we should all dance to the Syrian tune, a tune which never varies.

[Mandel] Shim'on Peres was addressing a convention of the Israeli Association of Political Science at Haifa University last night. He said that he does not fear a civil war in view of the arm acquisitions by Golan settlers and the worst-case scenarios concerning the Palestinian police force in the territories.

[Peres] I do not fear a civil war. What is more, anybody who deviates from democracy will have to face the entire nation. Our nation chose the democratic system. Furthermore, anybody afraid of an armed minority should sit by and do nothing, and let it run the show. That is what a dictatorship is all about, when a small armed group tries to impose its will on the majority. That totally contradicts our tradition, our essence, and the nature of the government regime in the State of Israel. [end recording]

Peres Remarks on Gaza Pullout Result of 'Loose Tongue'

TA0505103193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 May 93 pp 36, 37

[Report by political correspondent Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] The party last Saturday [1 May] night in the penthouse apartment of Moshe Te'omim, director of the Gitam advertising agency, was held in honor of Uri Savir to celebrate his appointment as director general of the Foreign Ministry. However, it was Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who stole the show. He talked, analyzed the political process, examined the progress made in the peace talks, argued heatedly, talked about books, mentioned Mitterrand, ate and drank. Mainly, he drank.

According to people close to him—who claim that contrary to his neighbor at the Prime Minister's Office, Peres cannot hold his liquor—he had more than his fill this time. This may have been the reason for his loose tongue.

Surprisingly enough, Peres was very pessimistic about the peace talks. The fact that progress had been made the previous Thursday in the talks with the Palestinians made no impression on the foreign minister. Peres believes there will be no progress as long as the talks with the Palestinians are conducted on the current level. As usual, he made his point gracefully. "If you have a problem child you do not change him. You change your attitude toward him." The child in this case is the Palestinians. In order to make progress in the peace talks, Peres explained to someone who had trouble comprehending, there is no choice other than to speak to Tunis.

At this point Peres made a semi-revelation: "Didn't you know that Faysal al-Husayni and Yasir 'Arafat are relatives? 'Arafat is a member of the al-Husayni family."

The foreign minister was very unequivocal on the Syrian track as well. To those who tried to portray Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a hopeless obstinate man who is not prepared to reveal what sort of peace he is prepared to give to Israel, the foreign minister had a clear answer. "Israel will announce that it is willing to effect a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights." As clear as

that. "And what about the Syrian peace?" his interlocutor hastened to ask. Peres replied: "Syria will have no choice other than agree to peace." [passage omitted]

Commentary Hails Statements by Peres, Shahal

TA0405131693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 93 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "A Well-Aimed Political Arrow"]

[Text] In a well-functioning democracy it is only the prime minister who announces a deviation from the official political line. The ministers express their opinions in closed sessions, while the prime minister is the one who chooses the timing for announcing a policy change. Israel, however, is a democracy which has known many interruptions. After the blunders which accompanied the functioning of the Labor governments in the 1970's and the recent Likud rule, it should come as no surprise that minor disruptions are still part of the normal routine.

This is how we should treat Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remark regarding the need to consider some involvement of the PLO in the negotiations. The same holds true for the statement made by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, to the effect that peace with Syria is worth a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. One is particularly intrigued by the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin permitted them to speak freely on this issue during the cabinet session.

These are steps in the right direction, which do not constitute mere gestures, but rather new facts which cannot be reneged on. There is also no turning back for the personages who made these moderate remarks, nor for the ministers, some of whom considered them as support for their own position, and most of whom remained silent. This was indeed a thundering silence.

Peres' and Shahal's statements position the government in a convenient spot for conducting sensible negotiations. One can argue, with the Likud, that the entire Golan Heights are an inseparable part of Israel and that liberated land will not be returned, in which case there is no point in drawing the borders through Kafr Naffakh or west of Mount Hermon. But it is also possible to maintain that the Syrians have a claim to sovereignty over the entire Golan Heights, yet Israel continues to hold strong bargaining chips for demanding stable, long-term security arrangements which are fully justified by the Syrian regimes' tradition of belligerency.

Rabin's government is finding it hard to maneuver between these concepts. A little PLO (Faysal al-Husayni), a dose of withdrawal (from the Golan Heights), and a morsel of closure (anemic and fragile), do not offer the basis for a policy of serious compromise. With their statements, Peres and Shahal have started preparing the ground for what is needed.

In a certain sense Peres even went too far. Several days ago he stated that peace depends mainly on Israel. This was a mistake, considering the fact that according to reports based on various sources President al-Asad is deriding Israel's appeasement maneuvers in the process of the negotiations, and that without justification he is a priori blaming Israel for the expected crises in the negotiations.

The trend, however, is correct: Peres and Shahal shot a well-aimed political arrow, and now we should demand that the government bridge the gap between its official policy and their positions.

It is true that we can expect a political storm to rage over the next few days. The Likud and its supporters will raise hell, but the sagacious and politically experienced Peres has already commented that the right wing is in a state of shock and that the government now has an opportunity to shed its outworn positions, a thing it did know how to accomplish to date. What will the Likud say? That it does not know how it feels about the closure? That some of the settlers, who are threatening to make illegal use of firearms, are a source of embarrassment for the democratic opposition? The public will not follow such confused positions.

The extreme left is also unsatisfied. It will not settle for Peres' and Shahal's statements and will demand more Israeli gestures and concessions. The extreme left does not know when to stop; the provocation against Meretz ministers has become a basic tenet of its political method. At this point, however, Peres' and Shahal's proposals are generous enough. It would suffice for the government to embrace them.

But can the government do so? I do not believe that Rabin gave Shahal the okay to drop a hint regarding a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The police minister, however, is one of the most experienced ministers in the government, and he knows in what direction the wind is blowing, even if he does not have a clear indication regarding the political weather in Rabin's immediate vicinity.

The same holds true for Peres. It is inconceivable that he has heard anything explicit from Rabin. But Peres and Rabin are very familiar with the rules of the game. Peres is pushing the peace process to a point which Rabin could find advantageous in the near future.

It matters little what will be said over the next few days. It also makes no difference whether the government will swear it has not introduced any changes to its policy. Peres and Shahal have not merely expressed their private opinion; their statements reflect the correct parameters for the start of a negotiation process which would include just the right dosage of compromise.

Finance Minister Against Long-Term Investments in Golan

TA0405132493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The finance minister says Israel should refrain from making long-term investments in the Golan because of the political situation. At the same time, it should strive to meet the needs of the local population by investing funds in the development of industrial and economic resources in the Golan.

Minister Shohat told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv in the course of a tour of the Golan Heights today that no decisions have been made as yet regarding the future of the region, and contrary to the practice with regard to Judaea and Samaria, his ministry has not started making any plans regarding the future of the Golan.

He added that cabinet ministers should stop uttering declarations on the issue, as these harm the negotiations and confuse the residents of the Golan.

Government To Fund Part of Golan Plant Expansion

TA0305140793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The Investments Center has approved the expansion of the manufacturing areas of the Martzefon Ta'asiyot plant in Qatzrin at the cost of 1.5 million shekels. Some 38 percent of the investment will be funded by the government.

The plant owners told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that if the site is handed over to Syria in the framework of a peace accord, they will operate just as easily under Syrian sovereignty.

Rabin Weighing SHAS Demand To Remove Education Minister

TA0405194293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has asked for a few days before he informs SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader 'Ovadya Yosef of his course of action with regard to the SHAS demand that Shulamit Aloni be removed from the education minister position.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that SHAS' demand was again raised at a meeting between the prime minister and the SHAS leader on the night of 2 May, when Rabbi Yosef asked the prime minister to keep the promise concerning Mrs. Aloni he made last fall. Rabbi Yosef expects Rabin's answer by the end of this week. He intends to convene his party leaders to decide on whether SHAS will secede from the government in the event of a negative reply.

Likud Seeks To Topple Rabin as Knesset Reconvenes

TA0305175493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Upon the opening of the Knesset summer session today, the Likud Knesset faction decided to cancel all the agreements offsetting absent coalition members with opposition members during votes, and Knesset members [MK] were called upon to attend all Knesset sessions in a bid to topple the government and impair its activities. Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said: We are on the eve of accelerated negotiations aimed at reaching dramatic decisions, and that is why we must ceaselessly submit motions of no confidence in the government. He called on his colleagues to go back to the streets and, as he put it, awaken the people.

The Knesset plenum session was adjourned for a while this afternoon following a major commotion created by coalition and opposition members arguing over the prime minister's failure to deliver a political statement at the opening of the summer session.

MK Roni Milo proposed that the Likud faction discuss the possibility of amending the autonomy plan included in the Camp David accords, and stipulating that the autonomy should first be implemented in Gaza. Milo said the Likud must present a clear and updated option to the Rabin government. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that MK Binyamin Begin categorically objected to Milo's proposal, saying it would mean forsaking the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu Assails Consent to Joint Management of Water

TA0505105693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu has said that joint Israeli-Palestinian management of the water sources is yet another concession on the part of the government in anticipation of the establishment of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu believes that this willingness is tantamount to a decision to dry up the coastal plain and is yet another sign that the government has lost its way.

Reacting to these remarks, Avraham Katz-'Oz, Israel's representative to the working group dealing with water issues in the multilateral talks, says that joint management means that Israelis and Palestinians will together maintain the existing situation and that this will also apply to the permanent arrangement. Katz-'Oz went on to say that Netanyahu is trying to intimidate the public and is totally ignorant about the issue.

Two Gaza Arabs Killed in Clash With IDF; Israeli Stabbed

TA0405152393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] An approximately 50-year-old Israeli fruit vendor was stabbed near the Bayt Lahiyah Junction in northern Gaza Strip a short while ago. He was stabbed in an arm and a shoulder and evacuated to Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital in good to moderate condition. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces closed off the area and launched searches for the terrorist who had stabbed the Israeli man.

Two brothers—Yusuf and Jum'a Abu-Muhsin—were killed in a clash with the security forces in the al-Mughazi refugee camp this afternoon. Yusuf Abu-Muhsin, a member in a Fatah Hawks squad, had been on the wanted list. According to local residents, a special IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit identified the fugitive and opened fire, killing him and his brother who was with him.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that three Gaza Strip residents have been killed and over 15 wounded by IDF gunfire since the morning. The deaths and injuries occurred in the course of stoning incidents and clashes with the security forces.

Shahal, Palestinian Notables Discuss Police Force

TA0405114893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal conferred this morning with four Palestinian notables at the Civil Administration offices in Nabulus to discuss the establishment of the Palestinian autonomy's police force. The notables included 'Adnan Damiri, a Tulkarm resident who served time in an Israeli jail for terrorist activities and is currently considered one of the most prominent Fatah members in the territories.

An ITIM correspondent has learned that the participants discussed Israel's agreement to the Jordanian police carrying out the training program and preparation for the future Palestinian police force.

Fatah Activist Comments

TA0505115293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 May 93 p 5

[Report by Yoram Binur and Esti Perez]

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal will examine the proposal to use the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan as a policing force in the territories, 'Adnan Damiri stated yesterday.

Shahal yesterday conferred at the Civil Administration offices in Nabulus with four local notables: Sa'id Kan'an, a senior Fatah member in Nabulus considered close to 'Arafat; Attorney Ghassan al- Shak'ah, who is close to Fatah; Dr. Nadir Hashim 'Awartani; and 'Adnan Damiri, a local Fatah activist in the Tulkarm refugee camp.

Damiri is the former head of the students union at Nabulus' al- Najah University on behalf of Fatah and served time in prison for various security crimes. He said Shahal met with each of the Palestinians separately. The conversation was conducted "in the fluent Arabic spoken by Shahal" and revolved around general political issues.

"I told the minister that there is a strong body in Jordan called Jaysh al-Tahrir al-Falastini (the Palestine Liberation Army). These troops are subordinate to 'Arafat and, in my opinion, they are the best suited to serve as a policing force in the territories," he said. According to him, Shahal said he would look into the matter.

Reacting to threats voiced by leading settlers that any armed Palestinian would get a bullet in the head, Faysal al-Husayni (who is currently in Washington with the Palestinian delegation) yesterday told HADASHOT that in the framework of the autonomy or the transition period law and order would prevail in the territories. "Anybody breaking the law will be severely punished, regardless of whether he is a Palestinian or an Israeli, an inhabitant of a refugee camp or a settler," al-Husayni said.

Settlers Demonstrate Against Return of Deportees

TA3004160493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A demonstration in al-Birah by several dozens settlers protesting the return of the deportees ended a short time ago. The Army detained several of the settlers for interrogation for disturbing the peace and later released them. The demonstrators claim they have not disturbed the peace and that the local army commander used excessive force against them. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that during the demonstration the settlers were stoned by local Arabs. The settlers responded in kind and smashed the windows of several nearby houses.

Top-Level Strategic Dialogue To Be Held With U.S.

TA0405125193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 93 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] The United States and Israel will hold a strategic dialogue at the top political level to discuss relations between the two states against the background of Middle East developments and the peace process. This was agreed on following President Bill Clinton's announcement after his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in March about raising the level of strategic cooperation with Israel.

Under the plan, whose details have not yet been finalized, the strategic-political dialogue will be held between Rabin and Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will join the talks as needed. Up to now, no date or agenda has been fixed for the high-level meeting.

Israeli sources said yesterday that one of the main issues in the dialogue will be strengthening Israel in view of the risks it has to undertake under the peace process. They said that the planned talks will deal with a framework for strategic-security ties between the United States and Israel in the era of peace, reaching an understanding of Israel's needs, and the way in which the United States can aid it.

"The peace process is the main subject, it has an impact on everything, and the main political effort will be made there," senior Israeli sources said last night.

Parallel to the political track, the biannual talks within the framework of the Joint Political-Military Group talks (JPMG) will continue. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri represents Israel at these talks while the U.S. delegation is headed by Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary for political-military affairs.

The meeting of the JPMG, the first since the change of administration in Washington, will take place toward the end of next week. The participants will discuss security ties between the two states. The agenda will include Israeli requests for advanced military technology from the United States, mutual evaluations of Middle East developments, coordinating joint maneuvers and plans by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the U.S. Armed Forces, and a discussion of plans for a defense system against surface-to-surface missiles.

The joint technological committee, decided on in the previous round of the JPMG in November 1992, will convene for the first time next week. Israel wants access to military technology so far denied it, such as software for a fire control radar for fighter aircraft and advanced computer systems.

'Largest Ever' Immigrant Rally Protests Absorption Policy

TA0405200393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] Some 15,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union staged a demonstration opposite the Knesset building in Jerusalem, which went on into the night. They protested the government's incompetent treatment of immigrant absorption problems. According to demonstrators, the government has never discussed the immigrant absorption issue since it was came to power. Our correspondent Yuli Ofeq reports from the demonstration:

[Begin recording] The 40 discordant CIS immigrant organizations have for the first time declared a truce in order to demonstrate together for a common cause: their demand that the immigrant absorption issue be placed on the national agenda. The immigrants' complaints deal mainly with unfulfilled promises made by the Rabin government before the elections. [passage omitted]

This is the largest demonstration in the history of Israel's immigration, and its organizers—the Zionist Forum—believe it reflects strength and signals to the government that the immigrants' distress is at the boiling point. Our votes gave Rabin power, and our votes will divest him of power, they threatened. [passage omitted]

The 15,000 protesting immigrants later left the Knesset and marched to a site near the prime minister's residence. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UN Fact-Finding Team Ends Visit, Departs for Cairo

JN0505084493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 May 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A 14-member United Nations fact-finding mission Tuesday wound up its three-day visit to Jordan and left for Cairo on the second leg of a Middle Eastern tour to gather information about the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The mission, headed by the ambassadors of Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslavia and Senegal, had conducted talks with 'Adil Irshayd, head of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department, and visited the King Husayn Bridge to meet with Palestinians crossing into Jordan from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The mission, which is to report on its findings in the region to the U.N. General Assembly, heard a report submitted to them by Mr. Irshayd on the deteriorating conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands in view of the ongoing siege imposed on them by the Israeli authorities.

Noting that sealing off the occupied territories, arbitrary punishment were causing further economic difficulties, Mr. Irshayd called on the United Nations to intervene and end such practices.

At the King Husayn Bridge, the U.N. team listened to accounts by Palestinian travellers and local Jordanian officials of inhuman treatment of Palestinian travellers by the Israeli authorities.

Formed in 1968 by the General Assembly, the U.N. mission has, to date, submitted 24 reports to the world organisation, outlining continued Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's human rights.

The U.N. mission has been barred by Israel from entering the occupied territories to conduct investigations into Israeli practices there.

King Addresses Palestinian Delegation

JN0305193293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] During his reception of a Palestinian delegation, which has come from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to congratulate him on the 40th anniversary of assuming his constitutional power and to share this dear occasion with the Jordanian people, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that they live in the heart, the conscience, and the mind for their steadfastness and their absolute confidence that the right will have the upper hand.

[Begin Husayn recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers: At our meeting here on this particular day once again, I would like to seize this opportunity to extend to you all my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude. I also will be proud, as long as I live, of our true and pure brotherhood as a one large family in its pains and hopes. I thank you for this valuable present, and I assert to you that it will live in the heart, the conscience, and the mind every moment of my life, together with the pictures of the kinfolk and their steadfastness, suffering, and patience, as well as the faithful hearts' absolute confidence in right and inevitably victory, which will produce a just, lasting, and honorable peace that can be accepted by future generations.

Be confident that we will continue to seek such a peace with all our energy and potential, and we will endeavor to see the new dawn after this long, pitch darkness, in which our dear, beloved kinfolk and ourselves have suffered. They have proved, through their steadfastness and adherence to the pure, sacred land, their love for this land and their adherence to it and to their right to life. I would like you to convey to every one my greetings, thanks, appreciation, gratitude, and confidence that right will inevitably score victory through patience, determination, endurance, and readiness to always take the position of men in the face of challenges. All this will, God willing, give us the desired results. The circumstances are difficult for our nation and its march, course, and fate. It may appear so at times of despair and difficulty.

However, I am confident that we will start, work, and reach what we wish to enable this Arab individual to have and fully enjoy his right in his large homeland; to participate in making its present, future, and the future of coming generations; and to regain his nation's former status among the nations. We hope that this part of your large homeland will also contribute to our effort to move from this situation to what should be for all of us through sharing responsibility with everyone and through democracy; political pluralism; mutual respect among all within the framework of the one family, to which we belong, regardless of our origins; and the respect for human rights so that we may embody, in one way or another form an example for our brothers to show some of their interest in the requirements of the present and future.

Regarding the kinfolk in the occupied territories—in Jerusalem and elsewhere—they are always in the heart, the mind, and the conscience. I beseech Almighty God to prevent despair and renew hope and confidence in right's inevitable victory. I beseech God to soon enable us to see our kinfolk, brothers, and beloved ones enjoy their rights on their dear, sacred national soil. We are from you, for your, and with you in all our energies and potentials. Nothing is more precious that this present. I also thank you for giving us this chance of meeting you in Amman, your home. Once again, please convey to all the kinfolk my greetings and those of your one large Jordanian family. Please convey our greetings, love, appreciation, and our eternal pride in our brotherhood. May God bless you. It is God who takes care of the march and who grants success. Peace and mercy be upon you. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Calls Israeli Peace Document 'Vague'

NC0505110493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has commented for the first time on the Israeli document that Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations with Israel, received in Washington yesterday. Buwayz said the Israelis' written proposal includes some of the required themes but remains vague and needs further study and specification.

Al-Hariri on U.S. Assurances About Israeli Pullout

NC0405171593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that the Americans have given Lebanon the necessary assurances about an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. He added: We are ultimately willing to achieve an Israeli withdrawal and a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. The Washington negotiations, al-Hariri said, are difficult, complicated, and tough; they require all possible support.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, al-Hariri stressed that the Chamber of Deputies can meet any day to amend the Constitution in the way it deems appropriate. He said the government is in the process of issuing a new tax law designed to reduce taxes on the labor force and on Arab companies, which encourages them to invest in Lebanon. The prime minister said the government has succeeded in restoring the world's confidence in Lebanon. He called on the Arab countries to support Lebanon, saying that this is the right time to provide assistance. We are not dreaming of large amounts of money, but we expect our Arab brothers to meet their obligations, al-Hariri said.

U.S. Embassy Bombing Ruling Disputed; MEA Closure Noted

NC0405190993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-Hamid Fakhuri, chairman of the Middle East Airlines [MEA] Board of Directors, has said that the U.S. Government's decision to close the carrier's offices in the United States came as a surprise. The decision will have a very negative impact on the Lebanese economy and on the airline in particular. He noted that the measure will prevent tens of thousands of Lebanese from travelling from the United States to Lebanon and prevent Lebanese living in America from keeping in touch with the motherland.

Fakhuri said contacts between senior Lebanese officials and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials had suggested that MEA would operate in the United States. He said the opposite happened, however, and we were compelled to abide by the ban. We have asked our offices in the United States to stop issuing tickets, to stop making bookings, and to stop receiving telephone contacts about reservations so that they will not violate the U.S. law.

Fakhuri said the ban does not target the company, but rather, it targets Beirut airport. The Americans believe that the airport is not safe for people arriving from the United States, he said, adding that this basically is the business of the Lebanese state. Our political contacts are very limited, and it is important for the Lebanese Government to take the necessary measures and hold contacts as soon as possible, he said.

Asked about the imposition of fines on the company because it violated U.S. regulations, as the Americans claim, Fakhuri said: No fines were imposed on us, but the U.S. law allows the Transportation Department to impose heavy fines.

Deputy George Qasarji expressed astonishment at Lebanon's silence over the closure of MEA's U.S. offices. He said the measure is a new link in the series of pressure to drag Lebanon into accepting conditions that go against its economic and political interests. He called on the government to take a firm and clear position on this measure without sluggishness or appeasement, as he put it.

In another development, AFP has cited a Lebanese judicial source as saying that Judge Nasri Lahhud, the government's military court representative, today appealed [tamyiz] the court's ruling that the U.S. Embassy explosion is covered by the Chamber of Deputies General Amnesty Law. Lahhud rejected the ruling of the first instance court, saying this kind of crime against political and diplomatic officials is excluded from the amnesty law and falls within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council, which examines crimes against state security.

AFP cited informed political sources as saying that the United States asked the Lebanese Embassy for clarifications about the Lebanese court's decision. The U.S. officials expressed indignation over the matter and hinted that this will affect the normalization of ties desired by Beirut, especially the resumption of MEA flights to the United States, the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, and the lifting of the ban on Americans wishing to visit Lebanon.

Ministers View MEA Issue

NC0505082293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said the issue of the Middle East Airlines [MEA] offices in Washington is legal, not political, and noted contacts with U.S. officials to resolve it. He said MEA issued thousands of tickets for Damascus, but its planes landed in Beirut,

which the U.S. side considered fraud. Buwayz did not hide U.S. concern about the Lebanese judicial ruling on amnesty for bombing cases.

The chairman of the MEA Board of Directors said the company offices in Washington have not been closed; they only stopped issuing tickets, bookings, and shipping policies to Lebanon on the U.S. Transportation Department's request.

Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi voiced astonishment at Washington's stance, especially since it affirmed its support for Lebanon's process of gaining stability. He told our radio he hopes this measure does not constitute a new position on [break in transmission precludes further processing]

Al-Hirawi Appeals for Help in Regaining Territory

NC0405201693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Remarks by President Ilyas al-Hirawi during a luncheon held in honor of visiting Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomeos in Beirut on 4 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch: I welcome you to Lebanon, a country that has suffered imposed, tendentious wars. [passage omitted]

We were here not only to stop guns, tragedies, displacement, and destruction, and we now are working to return the displaced and to consolidate confidence in the state and the (?future). We are (?struggling) to eliminate the residue of sectarianism and promote patriotism and to move from indignation and conflict to cooperation and the (?renunciation) of fighting and contention. [passage omitted]

Your Holiness: This Lebanon of peace is our homeland. How can its pride, sovereignty, and right to a safe and dignified life be violated? Israel's daily acts of aggression against our citizens in the south and western al-Biqa' and the continued Israeli occupation of our land for 19 years, despite international resolutions, represent condemnation of the (?world's) conscience.

We are appealing to everyone to support what is right, back Lebanon, and release our prisoners. We appeal to them to enable this country to restore these dear parts of its holy land and to support the Arabs' just rights, especially the return of the holy Islamic and Christian sanctities of Jerusalem to their rightful owners. [applause]

What kind of just, lasting, and comprehensive peace can be established if it is does not proceed from God's respect for man? If peace in the region supports peace in Lebanon, then Lebanon's peace is the peace of its sons and the essence of its united will. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Report Israeli Shelling in South

NC0505065993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Artillery and rocket shelling accompanied by machine-gun and large-caliber artillery fire was directed at Iqlim al-Tuffah villages and towns throughout last night following Israeli helicopter attacks on civilian homes.

At midnight, the occupation forces in Dayr Siryan and al-Tayyibah shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr woods. After midnight, the occupation forces in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah raked the al-Litani river basin and Wadi al-Hujayr with machine guns and rockets. These acts of aggression continued until dawn today. The occupation forces resumed their hostilities early this morning, when they directed random sniper fire at Iqlim's main and subsidiary roads. A state of extreme caution prevailed.

IDF, SLA Return Fire After Attack by 'Terrorists'

TA0405152593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Terrorists today attacked an SLA [South Lebanese Army] position in the Bayt Yahun area with mortar fire. No SLA casualties have been reported. Lebanese sources said the terrorists fired 50 shells in the course of about one hour. They added that a civilian female was injured and Bayt Yahun checkpoint commander's car was damaged during the attack.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned from these sources that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA returned fire.

Al-Hariri Leaves Beirut for Gulf Tour

NC0205062093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut this morning on a tour that will take him to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, and Qatar. Al-Hariri is accompanied by a delegation that includes ministers Walid Junblatt and Michel Samahah; al-Fadl Shalaq, chairman of the Reconstruction and Development Board; and Butrus Labaki, deputy chairman of the board.

Minutes of Talks With Chinese Delegation Signed

NC0105081993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The minutes of the Lebanese-Chinese talks following the Chinese delegation's meetings in Lebanon were signed at the Ministry of Economy and Trade today. The delegation head, Tian Runzhi, assistant minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation,

described the minutes as a symbol expressing a mutual desire to develop economic and trade ties.

Qatari Information Minister Departs

NC0205175993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Qatari Information Minister Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari and his delegation left Beirut for home this afternoon after a visit of several days at the official invitation of Information Minister Michel Samahah. [passage omitted]

Germany's Kinkel Visits Damascus, Discusses Peace Process

LD0405161293 Hamburg DPA in German 1501 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Damascus (DPA)—The slow progress of the Middle East peace negotiations was the main issue discussed during Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's first visit to Damascus on Tuesday. Kinkel, who will hold talks tomorrow with President Hafiz al-Asad before he flies on to Cairo, was received in the Syrian capital by his counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', and later spoke to Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. He expressed hopes of an agreement between Syria, Israel, and the Palestinians, which now appears closer.

Subjects for discussion in Syria will include the difficult economic relations, which are still suffering from planning and bureaucracy, even after the severing of Syrian-Soviet links. The entire Syrian foreign debt is estimated at $16 billion.

In Cairo, Kinkel will stress Egypt's special importance for Middle East peace and the overriding European interest in the country's stability under President Husni Mubarak. Human rights problems are to be raised, and immediate solutions sought on specific cases in both states [Syria and Egypt], where the German foreign minister will also speak of closer cooperation and express support for the Middle East peace process.

Kinkel Makes Arrival Statement

JN0405190493 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. On hand to greet him at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and other top Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador to Bonn, the German ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staffers.

Mr. Kinkel stated that he appreciated the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation. He said: I gladly accepted the invitation to visit Syria to demonstrate the importance Germany attaches to good relations between our two countries in the political, economic, and cultural areas. Our bilateral ties are impeccable and excellent. I came to Damascus, he added, for talks with Syrian officials on three topics of intense interest to the two sides. He listed these as the Middle East peace process, the Gulf situation, and bilateral relations.

We attach such importance to good relations with Syria and are aware of the significance your country has in this region, a fact not unknown in Germany and Europe, particularly insofar as Syria has a role in the peace process. He lauded Syria's coordination efforts among the Arab parties to get the peace talks restarted in Washington on 27 April. Asked to assess the progress of the peace talks and what he thought was needed to give fresh impetus to the negotiations, Mr. Kinkel said: I heard good news from Washington today; I heard that President Clinton is to meet with all the delegates of the peace talks, and this is a good sign. He hoped the talks would make appreciable progress. In Germany and Europe, he added, we set store by these talks developing and achieving tangible results. Such an outcome matters not just to this part of the world, but to Europe as well. We in Germany, he stated, will do all that we can to move the talks forward. Our contribution will be greater within the context of the EC rather than as an individual country, he pointed out.

Al-Shar' welcomed the German foreign minister and noted that the two sides have a long list of topics to talk about, including bilateral ties, regional developments, and the subjects referred to by Mr. Kinkel, led by the peace process. He said: I hope that tomorrow we will be able to discuss the outcome of our talks at a joint press conference. Today we will have talks at the Foreign Ministry, tomorrow morning Mr. Kinkel will call on His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, and later we should be able to speak about the results of our discussions.

Asked to comment on a projected meeting between Arab and Israeli delegates of the peace process and President Clinton and what he thought the U.S. Administration should do, al-Shar' said: Naturally, the fact that Mr. Clinton will be meeting with the parties involved in the peace process in Washinton points to an interest on the part of the U.S. Administration to propel the peace process forward, and we hope the ongoing talks in Washington will yield visible and positive results.

Al-Shar' Holds Talks With Kinkel

JN0505072593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the German side, led by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, opened official talks yesterday evening at the Foreign Ministry.

For the Syrian side, the talks were attended by the Syrian ambassador to Bonn and the directors of the Foreign Ministry's Economy, Western Europe, and Information Departments. The German ambassador in Damascus, the director general of political affairs, the director of the Near East section, the assistant protocol chief, and the director of the foreign minister's office attended for the German side.

Talks focused on the situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the peace process and current negotiations in Washington. Bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them were also discussed.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' earlier received German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The meeting was attended by the Syrian ambassador in Bonn and the German ambassador in Damascus. Discussions dealt with bilateral ties and issues of common concern.

Al-Asad Receives Kinkel

JN0505091593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1030 today German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian Ambassador to Bonn Sulayman Haddad.

Al-Shar' Receives Senegalese Envoy, Message for al-Asad

JN0405124893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. It was given to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar when Youssouph Baro, a personal envoy of the Sengalese president, called on him this morning. The two talked about ties between the two friendly countries and matters of shared interest. The foreign minister asked the Senegalese envoy to communicate greetings and good wishes from President al-Asad to Mr. Diouf.

Commentary Warns of Collapse of Washington Talks

JN0405150993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Two weeks into the ninth round, the Washington talks have yet to register any headway on any track. Characteristically, the Israelis have gone out of their way to waste time talking about marginal issues remote from the substance of the peace process. Although the Syrian document was thoroughly debated at the eighth round, the Israelis chose to bring it up at the ninth round. The ninth round is drawing to a close with the discussions still bogged down in general principles and the Israeli negotiators skirting the fifth article of the Syrian document addressing the basics of making peace, most importantly a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Observers are unanimous that the key to peace and a successful climax to the talks is a clear and unambiguous Israeli commitment to a vacating all occupied Arab territories. In the absence of such an obligation, the talks will remain mired in a vicious circle and vulnerable to maneuvers, procrastination, and temporization.

Up until now, the Israeli rulers have not even hinted that they will obligate themselves to a full withdrawal. Whatever pronouncements they have made about withdrawal or Arab rights are couched in terms so vague and ambivalent as to allow for different interpretations. Their actions on the ground, effectively, neutralize their arguments at the negotiating table.

There is an Israeli-Palestinian committee to address human rights in the occupied territories, and yet rights violations there have been on the rise. Only yesterday, four Palestinian youths were gunned down in the Gaza strip under the pretext that they failed to halt their car after an order to stop. Furthermore, the demolition or rocketing of civilian homes continues, and the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is, meanwhile, being extended indefinitely.

It is universally accepted that the peace talks have been limping along and will continue that way unless the Israeli rulers obligate themselves to the planks of the peace process, above all withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Yitzhaq Rabin, however, seems to be bent on proving that he is no less of an extremist than Yitzhaq Shamir. Indeed, he holds it against the Likud party that it handed the entire Sinai back to Egypt, and vows that Israel will not conduct itself similarly on other Arab fronts. Hence his instructions to the Israeli negotiating teams in Washington to waste time and effort, raise peripheral issues, and stay clear of the principle of withdrawal. In the meantime, Zionist settlers in the Golan are encouraged to agitate and issue declarations emphasizing that they will cling to the occupied Syrian territory.

The international community is anxious for the peace talks to move forward. The logjam of more than a year and a half cannot possibly be broken unless Israel quits its obduracy and then gives ground on the question of a pullout from all the occupied territories, since the Arabs are not about to relinquish their national soil or their legitimate rights. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial, and Syria will not bargain away a single inch of its territory. The entire Golan must be vacated, as must Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon.

Thus far, the Arabs have shown themselves to be remarkably patient, and over the past 16 months have shown themselves to be truly concerned for peace and pursuing a general, fair settlement on all fronts. In contrast to the genuine Arab peace intentions, Israeli rulers have been inflexible, greedy, and territorially ambitious. If this Israeli inflexibility should persist, the ninth round is bound to fall through—an outcome wanted by neither the international community nor the co-sponsors of the peace process.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Talks in Jalalabad

Sayyaf Wants To Include Mas'ud

BK0405163893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Islamabad, May 4 (AFP)—An Afghan factional leader left for Kabul Tuesday to persuade Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud to attend the Jalalabad talks, an aide to premier-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar said here.

Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] chief Rasul Sayyaf departed from Jalalabad by road accompanied by four commanders from the mojahedin shoora (council) governing the eastern Ningarhar province, Mangal Hussain said.

Mas'ud's participation is considered important for breaking a continuing deadlock at the talks aimed at hammering out an agreement on sharing power in a government to be led by Hekmatyar under the March 7 Afghan peace accord.

Sayyaf, an ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, had offered to go to Kabul and other leaders agreed to the propsal, Hussain said.

Rabbani, Hekmatyar and leaders or representatives of seven other Afghan parties including two Shiite groups have been meeting in Jalalabad since Friday but their talks have remained bogged down.

The peace accord signed in Islamabad with the mediation of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran designated Hekmatyar as premier proposing that he form his cabinet in consultations with Rabbani and other leaders.

Hekmatyar, who heads the radical Hezb-e Eslami, has insisted on appointing a non-controversial man as defence minister in place of arch rival Mas'ud, a demand rejected by Rabbani.

A previous round of talks among the Afghan leaders in Jalalabad failed to resolve the differences which continue to block the implementation of the peace accord. [passage omitted]

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Meet Nangrahar Commanders

LD0405172093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhannodin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister-designate, and other jehadi leaders met jointly this evening with jehadi commanders of Nangrahar Province at the Jalalabad City Palace.

The BIA dispatch correspondent reported: After the recitation of some verses of the Koran by qari Mohammad Sediq at the beginning of the meeting, esteemed 'Abdol Qadir, governor of Nangrahar and president of the Nangrahar Provincial Council, introduced the jehadi commanders.

Later, Shamali Khan spoke on behalf of the others and presented the demands of the jehadi commanders and the families of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution in connection with ensuring permanent peace. He promised the sacrifice of the jehadi commanders and the people of Nangrahar Province for the implementation of this aim.

Then the resolution of the commanders was read by one of the commanders. The resolution of the jehadi formations' leaders asks for this meeting to be the last one and that a settlement shall be reached at this meeting so that there will be no need for another one.

Then esteemed President Rabbani expressed gratitude for the sacrifice of the commanders and the people of Nangrahar Province for the success of the Islamic revolution and said: We have come to the city of Jalalabad with the intention to resolve the present problems with the cooperation of you brothers. We are determined to make such decisions in this meeting so that there will be no need for another meeting. We have decided to stay here until we reach an agreement. The aim of all of us is to implement the orders of God in related affairs. To implement this sacred aim, we have offered many sacrifices for 14 years. God willing, we will reach this goal of ours despite all differences. [passage omitted]

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Set Up 'Peace Commission'

NC0505065493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar have set up a peace commission [komisyon-e solh] to end all the disputes and clashes.

This commission, which is headed by 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, has six members, who will visit the Provinces of Parwan and Kapisa, where the supporters of Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Association] and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] are locked in war.

The leaders of the Afghan mojahed groups are holding negotiations in Jalalabad to end hostilities.

Ambassador in Cairo on Closure of 'All' Terrorist Camps

NC0405141193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Afghan Ambassador in Cairo Mohammad Sadeq Saljuqi has stated that the Afghan authorities recently succeeded in closing down

all the terrorist camps in Kabul and all along the Afghan-Pakistani border, which sheltered some of the elements called "the Arab mojahedin groups."

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, he said that the Afghan authorities have succeeded in the past months in expelling all undesirable elements and getting rid of the Arab mojahedin militias.

The ambassador denied reports that his country is involved in the incidents taking place inside some Arab countries, explaining that the present Afghan Government is seeking to draw up a comprehensive plan that will enable it to control all the country and end the presence of all illegal elements in Afghanistan.

Saljuqi said his country is pleased to host any Arab or Islamic inspection team or teams from international organizations to ascertain for themselves the Afghan authorities' efforts and success in closing down the camps of those who call themselves the Afghan mojahedin.

The ambassador denied reports that the Mecca agreement has failed to stop the violence and struggle between the Afghan groups and parties. He said that the agreement was meant to stay.

He called on Iran to stop interfering in the Afghan people's internal affairs and supplying some elements there with funds and weapons.

India

Reportage on Hindu-Muslim Clashes in Manipur

BK0405131693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Unprecedented Hindu-Muslim violence in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur entered its second day Tuesday, with the official death toll rising to at least 66, police and residents said.

Police in Guwahati, the capital of Assam state, had said earlier that the clashes were mainly between members of two warring groups of tribal militants, but this was contradicted by Manipur authorities.

Members of the two communities torched shops and buses and fought pitched battles in the state capital of Imphal and surrounding areas, defying a police-imposed curfew, according to residents reached by telephone.

Sixty-six people were killed, including 11 women and nine children, police said, adding that the bodies were brought to two hospitals in Imphal. Nearly 300 people were injured in the clashes.

Police sources said they expected the death toll to rise as violence continued despite the curfew and the deployment of paramilitary troop reinforcements.

Offices, businesses, schools, colleges and banks were closed in Imphal and other tense parts of the state, which has a population of 1.8 million and shares a border with Burma.

Some 2,000 people sheltered in makeshift relief camps opened in Imphal by the state government, controlled by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) party.

The Hindu-Muslim violence was unprecedented in Manipur, where Hindus are in an overwhelming majority.

Police blamed the clashes on "rumors spread by anti-social elements," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. One rumor said 20 women of one community were forcibly taken away by members of a different community, PTI added.

In keeping with Indian press conventions barring the identification of groups involved in communal clashes, the news agency did not name the communities involved.

Manipur Director-General of Police A.V. Liddle said the violence appeared to be a sequel to the beating of a Muslim gun-runner by Hindu members of a local underground organization.

The Muslim was thrashed when he failed to deliver weapons to the group as promised, Liddle said.

Army Called Out; 86 Dead

BK0405161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] In Manipur, the army has been called out to assist the civil administration to maintain law and order. The army staged a flag march in several parts of Imphal today. Talking to AIR correspondent, the chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, said that police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in all the sensitive places as a precautionary measure. The chief minister also announced an ex-gratia payment of 20,000 rupees to the families of those killed and 5,000 rupees to the injured. All political parties have appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. In an emergency meeting, they assured the chief minister of their full cooperation to fight communal forces. The meeting was convened by the chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, in view of the clashes between two communities in Imphal.

The situation in Manipur is tense but under control and no fresh cases of violence were reported today. Making a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha this evening, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said 109 antisocial elements have been arrested in the two affected districts in a night-long operation. More arrests are being made. He said all aspects of the situation concerning the maintenance of public order in Manipur are receiving continuous attention.

Mr. Chavan said that there was a sudden outbreak of clashes yesterday between two communities in the Nalong Bazaar village of Thoubal district following a minor dispute between two parties over a monetary transaction. The violence spread quickly and according to the state government, 68 people have died and 78 grievously injured. He said the state government took action to contain the violence. The curfew is continuing. He said about 700 women and children of a minority community have been given shelter in local schools.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1428 GMT on 4 May, in a similar report, adds: "Unprecedented Hindu-Muslim violence continued for the second day Tuesday in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, leaving at least 86 people dead, police sources and residents said.

"More than 300 others were injured as members of the two communities fought pitched battles in the state capital Imphal and surrounding areas, residents said by telephone.

"Defying a heavy police and paramilitary presence and an indefinite curfew in several districts, mobs torched shops, houses and vehicles, police sources and residents said.

Manipur Director General of Police A.V. Liddle said at least 70 people had been killed. But the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), quoting intelligence sources, put the number of fatalities at 86.

"Police said they expected the toll to rise.

" 'The situation is still tense,' Liddle said in Imphal, capital of the tiny state of 1.8 million where Hindus are in an overwhelming majority."]

Situation 'Under Control'

BK0505034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas in Imphal and Thoubal districts of Manipur is under control. Giving this information, Inspector General of Police Yogeswar Singh told AIR [All India Radio] Imphal correspondent that no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the curfew bound areas during the past 12 hours. Meanwhile, the death toll in the group clashes has gone up to 75.

The Manipur chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, has said that clashes in the state have nothing to do with the religious beliefs of the people. Briefing the leaders of various political parties on the situation in Imphal, the chief minister said there have been enough evidence that the violence has been engineered by a group of armed extremists. He said additional security forces have been rushed to the state from the Center to meet the situation.

Meanwhile, the curfew in the greater Imphal and areas in four small towns of Imphal District has been extended up to 1800 this evening. However, in Thoubal District, curfew will continue till 0600 tomorrow.

Four Border Guards, 1 'Militant' Dead in Kashmir

BK0405162093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, May 4 (AFP)—Muslim guerrillas blasted a vehicle killing four Indian border guards in Kashmir, where 10 militants were slain in violence linked to a bloody secessionist campaign, police said.

The four members of the Border Security Force (BSF) died and four others were injured when their jeep ran over a landmine overnight Monday at Kulgam, some 70 kilometers (43 miles) from here, police sources said.

Hundreds of residents fled the area after the ambush, fearing retaliatory attacks by the BSF, the sources said. BSF troops have been accused of attacking civilians after coming under rebel fire in the past.

A leading activist of the outlawed Hezbul Mujahideen, the most powerful of several groups fighting to secede Kashmir from India, was shot dead by security forces Tuesday in the border town of Kupwara, officials said.

An official spokesman said nine other militants died elsewhere in Kashmir, including four who were burnt to death when they set fire to a house in which they were hiding in a bid to escape from security forces.

All four died instantly in their hideout in Badgam district.

In Baramulla, a rebel stronghold, hundreds of Muslims took to the streets chanting anti-government slogans after the army handed over bodies of two young militants who had been arrested the previous day to their families.

The protestors accused the troops of killing the two in cold blood.

Meanwhile, a member of the Kashmir police force which went on strike last month has confessed to involvement in Monday's twin blasts in Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir which left one dead and 40 injured, police said.

The police said Mohammad Aehsan admitted during questioning that he and members of a group of Muslim militants had carried out the blasts, which ripped through a cinema and a passenger bus.

Muslim secessionists are waging a bloody campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. India accuses Pakistan of arming the militants, a charge denied by Islamabad.

India and Pakistan control parts of the state and dispute its ownership.

Earlier Tuesday the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) had reported four militants and four Indian border guards were among 12 people killed.

The news agency quoted state officials as saying a leading activist of the outlawed separatist group Hezbul Mujahideen, Bashir Ahmad Lone, was gunned down by security forces in Kupwara town bordering Pakistan on Tuesday.

Another Hezbul rebel was burnt to death when the house from which he fired at BSF guards during a one-hour clash was allegedly torched by troops Monday, PTI said.

The agency did not give details about six of the 12 violent deaths it reported.

Further Casualties

BK0505033893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 13 persons, including eight militants, were killed in militancy related incidents during the last 36 hours. Four militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Badgam District and two each in Baramulah and Doda districts. Four security personnel were killed and four injured in a mine blast at Kulgam. During search operation 16 AK type rifles, one rocket launcher, two grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered.

Punjab 'Militants' Surrender With Arms in Amritsar

BK0505145293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] In Punjab, 82 militants, including four hard-core militants, surrendered to police at Chowk Naka in Amritsar district today. The inspector general of police, border range, Mr. D.R. Bhatti, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the militants also surrendered 8 quintals of explosive material, 100 hand grenades, four machine guns, 13 AK-47 rifles, and several other arms and ammunition.

'Dependence' on Army for Antiterrorism Action Criticized

BK0405163093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—India's military, upset by the government's growing dependence on the army to combat terrorism, has circulated a report criticizing other federal forces for failing to tackle domestic unrest on their own.

"We have been telling the government that the overuse of the army is bad for the morale of soldiers and affected training schedules," a Defence Ministry spokesman said Tuesday of the army report prepared early last month.

The army accused federal paramilitary forces of "fighting shy" of Sikh, Muslim and tribal rebels, adding that those troops were incompetent to deal with insurgencies in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam.

"The continued deployment of the army in internal security duties has a corrosive effect on its personnel and a decaying effect on police organizations," the hard-hitting report added.

India's million-plus army has deployed thousands of soldiers across India's north on "internal security" duties and troops have been kept on a near-permanent state of alert in states where Hindu- Muslim rioting erupts frequently.

Copies of the report, prepared by the army and the Defence Ministry, was handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force, the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border police and other paramilitary organizations last week.

"The central forces are not geared to effectively deal with the terrorists, who are well trained, highly motivated and armed with highly destructive sophisticated weapons and exposives," the army said.

"The paramilitary forces are shy of carrying out operations in the night and insurgents and terrorists are exploiting the weakness," the 15-page report said.

Obsolete weaponry and poor management of paramilitary forces and provincial police had led to growing dependence by the federal and state governments on the military for internal security duties, the report added.

"(The governments') apprehension is based on their own perception that state police and the central forces are not capable of handling the situation themselves, even when the level of insurgency has been reseasonably contained."

The report cited the example of Bombay, where the army was made to stay long after the Hindu-Muslim riots in December and January that left 1,000 people dead.

Frequent use of the army in internal duties needs to be curbed, but it would be possible only if the central forces manage to handle such assignments on their own. "So far there is no evidence that this is possible," the report added.

Civilians in Kashmir and Punjab prefer the army over paramilitary troops, whom they accuse of killing innocent people in fake gunbattles, mass rapes and other atrocities in the name of anti- rebel operations.

U.S. Recognition of ISI Involvement in Terrorism Viewed

BK0305093293 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "A Great Discovery!"]

[Text] The Central Intelligence Agency of the United States is easily the best-equipped and most competent outfit to mastermind and execute subversive schemes against other regimes. It has had unmatched experience in this field in all corners of the world throughout the Cold War era. How could such an agency be easily misled by the Pakistanis into believing that India's allegations of a Pakistani hand in terrorist violence in Punjab and Kashmir were sheer propaganda meant to cover up a failure to solve ts own problems in these states? Many in India were indeed wondering how this could be the case. Whether or not the Americans were duped by the Pakistanis right from the beginning, it now transpires that the CIA is fully aware of Pakistan's anti-Indian design in Punjab and Kashmir. The truth about this design has been flatly stated by the CIA Director, Mr. James Woolsey, in his testimony before the Judiciary Committee of the US Senate. He has said that Sikh and Kashmiri groups waging insurgencies against the Indian Government have been given "safe haven and other support" by Pakistan.

Islamabad has for quite some time been aware of Washington's discovery of Pakistan's role in unleashing terrorist violence in the Indian border states. It has left no stone unturned to prevent at least an open acceptance of the dark truth by the US government. From the Pakistanis' point of view, the US owed them at least this much in recognition of their services to that country at critical junctures (Afghan crisis was only one) in the last four decades. But the Pakistani rulers' hopes have been dashed. Well, every bitter experience in international relations perhaps helps.

New Delhi will naturally be elated at the new American acceptance of the stark reality in Kashmir. But there is no room for complacency. The WASHINGTON POST has published a report quoting a former officer of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence as having claimed that the Jamaat-e Eslami "had hired former employees of ISI [Interservices Intelligence] and the Special Services Group, the army's elite commando force, to run its Kashmir operations." The ISI itself is certain to continue to foment terrorism in Kashmir, perhaps a little more deviously than hitherto. There is evidence of a large number of well-trained and well-armed Afghan Mojahedin still being at large in Pakistan. It will be child's play for the ISI to make the best use of such mercenaries (for Pakistan, of course, they are "Islamic volunteers" of the kind the Algerian government has had to contend with). It must be remembered in this connection that the ISI is no ordinary spy set-up. It has been a state within a state in the real sense of the term. After all, it has made and unmade governments in Pakistan itself. With unlimited resources at its command, the ISI must be hoping to show a thumb to the Americans and merrily continue its mischief in Kashmir.

Pakistan-Sponsored Kashmir ICO Resolution Decried

BK0405113993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 May 93

[Commentary by S. Venkata Narayanan]

[Text] Once again Pakistan made an attempt to extract some propaganda mileage out of a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, by getting it to pass a resolution on Kashmir. At a meeting in Karachi last week, the political affairs committee of the 21st conference of ICO foreign ministers passed a resolution on Kashmir. It said the conference noted the report of the secretary general on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and endorsed the recommendations contained therein which called for a peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement. The ICO foreign ministers' Karachi declaration adopted the entire resolution on Kashmir passed by the conference. The resolution condemned what it called violation of human rights in the valley and called for the right of self-determination. Pakistan promptly expressed its satisfaction and gratitude at the conference passing the resolution and the Pakistani foreign minister, Farooq Leghari, declared the passage of the resolution is a matter of satisfaction for Pakistan.

India reacted to the drama enacted in Karachi with justifiable anger. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi rejected the assessment and recommendations made by the ICO secretary general and endorsed by the ICO foreign ministers meeting as totally unacceptable. In a statement issued the resolution was passed in Karachi, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said, and I quote, the communique and resolutions adopted at Karachi make it obvious that the ICO foreign ministers meeting was misled by certain elements of the ICO secretariat and the host country [sentence as heard]. In the circumstances, the views expressed in the communique and the resolutions do not come as a surprise to the Government of India. At the same time the Government of India categorically questions the assessment and recommendations endorsed at the foreign ministers meeting at Karachi, unquote. The spokesman went on to assert that Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the enduring question is for Pakistan to come to terms with the realities and to cooperate with India to serve the larger objectives of peace and stability in the subcontinent. He pointed out that the ICO resolution will serve no purpose other than encouraging Pakistan to persist with its support and sponsorship of terrorism and subversion against India.

The ICO has presumed further to take on a role in safeguarding the interests of over a 100 million Indian citizens who happen to be Muslims. It is ironic that an organization which refused India's participation in its activities despite India being endowed with one of the largest Muslim populations in the world now pretends to

abrogate to itself a role to protect their interests. Apart from the political gimmickry inherent in such gestures, the statements do not serve the interests of the Muslims in Indian subcontinent. The ICO stance on Kashmir attracted equally angry responses from Indian parliamentarians in general and Muslim MP's in particular. While Janata Dal member and former External Affairs Minister Mr. I.K. Gujral regretted that the ICO foreign ministers do not understand the actual problem and were led up the garden path by host Pakistan, Mohammad Afzal of the same party declared that Pakistan has no right to speak on behalf of Indian Muslims, because even today it continues to treat those who fought for its creation as muhajirs or immigrants. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, took strong exception to Pakistan using the ICO forum to seek the so-called safeguards for the rights and welfare of Muslims in India. He declared that Kashmir's welfare is intrinsically linked with the welfare of the rest of India. Mr. Khurshid went on to say, and I quote, we are confident that we are secure in our future, unquote.

At a time when the bitterest of enemies are becoming the best of friends, it is a pity that Pakistan continues to harp on Kashmir by raising it in international forums. Pakistan continues to claim that Kashmir is the biggest stumbling block coming in the way of Indo-Pakistan relations. If that is really so, it should stop aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir and sit down for talks with India as stipulated in the Simla Agreement. As New Delhi has made it clear several times in the past, the ICO has no locus standi on Kashmir. No amount of moral support Pakistan may procure from the ICO or any other organization for that matter is going to change the Indian stance on Kashmir. The sooner Pakistan realizes this hard reality the better it is for that country.

Army Foils Pakistan-Trained Militants' Infiltration Bid

BK0505124693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the army foiled another infiltration bid by Pakistan-trained militants in Uri Sector and recovered one of the biggest ever cache of ammunition and grenades. According to an official spokesman, the militants crossed the Line of Control last night when the Pakistani troops fired on Indian positions to provide cover to them.

Bangladeshi Minister Meets Home Minister Chavan

BK0405160093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Communications Minister Oli Ahmed met Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan in New Delhi today. The two ministers discussed in detail the repatriation of Chakma refugees located in some camps in Tripura. Oli Ahmed briefed the Indian minister on the steps taken by the Bangladeshi Government to resolve the issue of Chakma refugees through a political solution by resorting to consultations between the two countries. Chavan appreciated the steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh following the discussions between the prime ministers of the two countries in May last year and expressed the satisfaction of his government. He categorically said that the Indian Government does not like to interfere in internal affairs of Bangladesh and it will also not encourage any activity from the Indian soil against Bangladesh.

Ministry Denies BBC Report on 3 Indians Killed in Cambodia

BK0405162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The Ministry of External Affairs has denied the killings of three Indian soldiers in Cambodia. In a press release in New Delhi, it said no Indian soldier has been killed and the BBC's report in this regard yesterday was based on an erroneous initial report from the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] military operations room. The release said however that five Indian soldiers were injured in an attack in Kampong Cham Province and are undergoing treatment in a Phnom Penh hospital.

Government Objects to U.S. Trade Retaliation Threat

BK0105142093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 1 (AFP)—New Delhi on Saturday objected strongly to a U.S. threat of sanctions over India's failure to safeguard American patents.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India wanted the question of intellectual property rights to be settled within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's (GATT) Uruguay Round of global trade liberalization talks.

"India believes that the multilateral forum provides the best mechanism for resolving the matter and that unilateralism in trade matters should be eschewed," he told AFP.

He said New Delhi would try to convince Washington that the issue should be resolved by GATT and that "any unilateral judgment or action on its part would be unwarranted."

The United States on Friday designated India as a "priority country" under the U.S. "Special 301" sanctions provision and announced it would set up a task force to recommend punitive action for failing to protect U.S. patents. Indian laws were blamed for "numerous deficiencies, including failure to provide product patent protection for pharmaceuticals."

The opposition Communist Party of India-Marxist also slammed the U.S. decision and urged all "patriotic and

democratic forces" to oppose it. It charged Washington with "continuously pressurizing India on a whole range of policy matters designed to open up the Indian economy further to U.S. capital and goods."

The party said the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had adopted "weak-kneed" economic policies by following the reform dictates of international lending agencies such as the International Monetary Fund.

"It is ironic that at the very time the U.S. announced the threat, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh is in Washington to solicit more funds from the IMF," a party statement said.

Iran

Further Reaction on U.S. Refusal of Entry to Official

Deputies Condemn 'Inhuman' Behavior

LD0405102693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to our correspondent's report, in today's Majles session, the motion on transfering responsibility for affairs related to travel services and tourism to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance was tabled as a single-urgency bill, the urgency of which was approved. Also, the debate on the merger of the Ministries of Industries, Heavy Industries and Mines and Metals, and the establishment of the Ministry of Mines and Industries was postponed by six months following a proposal by a number of the deputies. Also the motion on the membership of the PTT minister [Mohammad Gharazi] to [unspecified] forums and councils was debated in the first session, but not approved.

On the basis of the same report, in today's open session of the Majles, a letter written by over 150 deputies on the inhuman behavior of U.S. officials toward the Iranian delegation participating in the recent IMF session was read out. In the letter, the deputies condemned the U.S. officials' vindictive action which was far removed from decent human behavior and international rights. They declared: With this and other similar acts, America has shown its total incompetence to host such international sessions, and countries of the world must think about another suitable venue for such international sessions.

Ministry Denounces 'Ill-Treatment'

LD0405172593 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Ministry of Economy and Finance in a statement here Tuesday termed the ill-treatment of an Iranian economic delegate in Washington by U.S. officials as a pre-planned scheme emanating from America's hostility to the Islamic Republic.

The statement was referring to Washington's refusal to allow Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahroudi, a member of the Iranian economic delegation to Washington for a joint meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), to stay in the U.S. capital.

"All arrangement for Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahroudi's participation in the meeting had been made in accordance with the regulations now in force in the U.S.," it said.

The World Bank and the IMF hold a joint meeting in Washington every year with participation of delegations from member states to study the economic situations of those countries.

The Iranian delegation travelled to Washington at the formal invitation of the IMF Secretariat.

On receiving strong protests lodged by the Iranian delgation, the U.S. State Department officials claimed that Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahroudi's visa was no longer valid, said the Ministry of Economic and Finance.

The statement disclosed that U.S. officials detained the Iranian delegate for no reason and asked him to leave the country immediately or bring the case to a U.S. court with Pakistan represent Iranian interests in that country.

Following the decision of the Iranian delegate to return home, the American officials tried to give assurances that he would be provided with accomodation and other facilities suitable for a diplomat before flying back to his country.

In an interview here Monday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahroudi said that during his short stay in Washington, he was treated in the worst possible manner by the so-called advocates of human rights.

The statement said that Washington's inhuman behavior towards the Iranian delegate revealed that even in simplest cases one cannot trust Amercian promises.

Meanwhile, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh who headed the delegation lodged a strongly-worded protest with the World Bank and IMF officials, demanding explanations about such acts which are in contravention of international laws.

Government Protests 'Harassment'

LD0505090393 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 5 May 93

[TText] United Nations, New York, May 5, IRNA—Iran's interests section in Washington D.C. Tuesday protested against the attitude of the U.S. officials at Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) towards a clerical member of the Iranian delegation to the spring meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hoseyni Shahrudi, chairman of the economic and finance committee of the Majles, was denied permission to enter the U.S. upon his arrival on April 27 for "an unspecified reason," said a note extended to Pakistani Embassy in Washington yesterday.

The protest note stressed that the INS officials withdrew Shahrudi's visa at 'Dulles Airport' despite the fact that he had a valid visa issued by the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

"If the U.S. Department of State did not wish Hoseyni to enter the U.S., he should not have been issued a valid visa by the U.S. Embassy in Paris," the note said.

An Iranian delegation led by Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh arrived in Washington last Tuesday to attend the joint meeting of the World Bank and IMF. The U.S. officials issued visa for all the delegates except for Shahrudi. He was detained for several hours and returned to Tehran the next day.

During his detention, the note stressed, Shahrudi was subjected to interrogation and harassment without being given a reason for these actions by the U.S. immigration officials.

"Because of this irrational and unjust behavior on the part of the U.S. Department of State, the interests section expresses its strongest possible protest and demands an explanation," the note said.

Shahrudi in an interview upon his arrival in Tehran said that he had been detained for several hours and was subject to harassment and illegal treatment.

The note added that the U.S. Department of State had promised the interest section via Pakistani Embassy to offer Shahrudi "decent accomodations on the premises of the airport, but also failed to keep their word even at this minial standard of courtesy."

Transport Minister on Agreement With Oman

LD0105115293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpt] Iran and Oman have signed a document delineating ways for the two countries to cooperate in sea and air transport.

The document was signed in Muscat by Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, the Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of roads and transport, and Salim bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of communications of the Sultanate of Oman.

Following his return from Oman this morning, the minister of roads and transport, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, said: Establishing flights between the two countries, with the right to carry goods and passengers, and creating a direct air corridor between Muscat and Bandar-e 'Abbas within the two countries' airspace, for the purpose of shortening the air journey between the airports, are some of the topics contained in the document.

He added: The two parties, being interested in extending the grounds for cooperation in sea transport, have agreed on the need for an investigation into the economic aspect of a planned agreement; the draft of this will be completed within six months.

The two parties have also agreed on the transportation of goods and passengers by sea between each other's ports and to other destinations. They stressed the need for a joint shipping line to be set up between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Effects of West's Propaganda Noted

NC0405122093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM (SUPPLEMENT) in Persian 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Weekly commentary: "The United States and its Overt and Covert Objectives"]

[Text] During recent weeks, the hegemonistic government of the United States has started a preplanned propaganda and political campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In order to legitimize their actions and plots in the eyes of U.S. and world public opinion and in order not to be alone in the so-called arena of their fight with the Islamic system and the Muslim Iranian nation, the administrators of U.S. politics have—in addition to subservient governments such as Algeria and Egypt—activated new political plans to portray the Iranian Government as a threat to the stability and security of other governments and as an interfering government.

We can also refer to the unprecedented claims by the Indian Defense Ministry that Iran is a threat to India's security. Definitely this should be discussed within the context of covert coordination between India and the United States because apart from some minor differences and especially about the situation of Indian Muslims, the Indian Government has never had any major conflict or controversy with Iran that may have led to a deterioration of relations or to such claims and allegations.

In reviewing the policy of the United States in general and the current Clinton administration, we should point out that part of these stances actually stems from America's concern over the presence and existence of a powerful, independent, and stable system such as the Islamic Republic in a sensitive area such as the Persian Gulf. And we should also list the following:

1. By adopting logical and friendly policies in the Persian Gulf, Iran has always tried to keep the regional countries far from the Western powers' proddings and has tried to make the Arab rulers understand that it does not support insecurity, chaos, and conflict in the region. Naturally if this logical and principled policy of Iran spreads in the region, then the U.S. foothold in the Persian Gulf will

weaken. Under these conditions, what pretext will the American rulers use to blackmail the oil-rich Arab governments? How can they sell billions of dollars worth of arms to them? And how can they portray themselves to be the mentors of the Arabs and the protectors of law and order in the region? Therefore the West has to fake the existence of an imaginary threat in order to justify its presence. The Westerners will not give up three of their economic benefits which are: easy and cheap access to Persian Gulf oil; the sale of arms; and, maintaining a consumer market for their goods. And the aggressive United States, the defeated colonialist Great Britain, and other Western governments want to ensure these three benefits for the world capitalists. Of course, with the continuation of its aggressive and ignorant policies, Saddam's government to a large extent helped to pave the way for the political and propaganda presence of the West in the region. But the Americans consider the propaganda weapon of an Iranian threat to be more suitable. Therefore, by propounding imaginary objectives in Iran's foreign policy and by fostering pessimism in the region, the West is trying to prevent Iranian policies aimed at cooperation and good relations among the Gulf countries from materializing. We can see an example of this in recent stances by the regional countries.

2. The Clinton administration and other Western governments are well aware that Iran is not involved in the political and social affairs of countries like Egypt and Algeria, and the fact that Muslim nations were influenced by the Islamic revolution is only natural and has nothing to do with the policies of the Islamic Republic. The Muslim nations and peoples of countries such as Egypt have chosen to return to their Islamic identity and to Islamic thought after being disillusioned by other ideologies and they are thus trying to reform their political and social situation. Certainly the well-equipped research and analysis centers in the West are able to understand this reality, and by resorting to its advanced technology and intelligence information the West must have realized that Iran is not intervening in the domestic affairs of other countries. However, at the same time they are worried—and rightly so—because the mere existence of an Islamic, powerful, and independent Iran threatens their illegitimate interests and is a motivation for other Islamic countries to use Iran as an example.

3. The other threat that the West feels from Iran is a true one, and this is Iran's active political and propaganda presence in the world. Now that even powerful Russia has had to surrender to the United States and Western Europe because of its political weakness and Yeltsin is begging Clinton to preserve his rule, and in view of the situation in the other countries of the world, Islamic Iran is the only country which is powerfully defending the rights of Muslims and of oppressed nations in world forums and is fearlessly speaking up about realities. The United States considers Iran's political and propaganda presence in the world to be the thing that reveals their deceit, and naturally this is not a very pleasant issue for them.

This is what constitutes the true threat that Iran poses for the West. Thus, the U.S. and European governments are trying, firstly, to misrepresent these threats and, secondly, to show that all the Islamic countries and even the so-called new world order are vulnerable to these threats. And the reason for this stems especially from the Clinton administration's need to create foreign problems in order to distract U.S. public opinion from domestic problems. Of course the governments of Egypt and Algeria are using this tattered tool as well.

The United States, Egypt, Algeria, and other countries that are resorting to such means and have made Iran a target of their political onslaughts in order to mislead public opinion at home from domestic crises and their incapabilities, are unaware that the cultural and political knowledge of nations has grown and that nations are not easily fooled by false claims and allegations. During his presidential campaign, Clinton made many promises about solving economic problems, about overcoming economic and industrial recession in the United States, about ending the social crisis, about stopping poverty and elevating the American standard of living, and many other things. Nevertheless, the complication of world political and economic problems has forced him—like the former U.S. President—to resort to contradictions. Clinton thinks that by focusing U.S. public opinion on issues such as Iran and by creating a commotion he will have an opportunity to understand what is going on in the White House. But the uprisings of recent years in various U.S. cities should be a warning to him that even though he has access to the world's most immense mass media machinery, he cannot overcome his and the U.S. Government's weaknesses, and that the domestic and foreign problems that he is facing and the continuation of this process will have him facing U.S. public rage very soon.

However, it is necessary to list a few points on the Islamic Republic's foreign policy in confronting this extensive political, economic, and propaganda onslaught.

One of the main issues that the government should consider is that it has not taken the necessary major steps in this field. These steps are the expansion of propaganda networks and increasing the mass media capability to express Iran's views in order to neutralize Western propaganda. Of course the topic of reviewing our capabilities about technical issues, equipment, planning, policy-making, and how we portray our foreign propaganda calls for a separate, comprehensive discussion devoted only to this issue. But in this discussion we would like to underline the significance and the sensitivity of propaganda both by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by the domestic and foreign press, and especially the need to strengthen the Islamic Republic's programs that are beamed abroad in order to

prevent the Muslim and other nations from being influenced by the West's propaganda against Iran and Islam.

Also, it is necessary for Iran to have a more active political presence in world forums and for our political cadre to be continuously strengthened and trained. Meanwhile, there should be coordination between all the system's politicians and officials as far as expressing views on foreign policy, so that media imperialism does not have the opportunity to propagandize against Iran and to cast doubts especially as far as relations among some Islamic countries are concerned. Institutions should be set up inside the country to receive information and comprehensively analyze other countries' domestic situations so that with a correct and timely understanding of issues we can react accordingly. In short, we should be more alert and carry out a more precise assessment of world conditions, the political games, and the overt and covert objectives of the Western powers and especially of the United States.

Minister Cited on U.S. 'Poisonous Propaganda'

LD0405134493 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—A senior Iranian official said Tuesday aim of the global arrogance in magnifying Iran's military power and portraying it as a threat to the region was to exploit regional countries militarily and economically.

"All of West's hue and cry about Iran is aimed at selling more arms to regional countries and consolidate its domination over those countries," Akbar Torkan, minister of defence and armed forces logistics said.

Through such poisonous propaganda, Torkan said, the enemies of the Islamic revolution have managed to sell billions of dollars worth of arms to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other regional countries. A survey of military expenditures of regional countries revealed that the defence budget of each of those coutries was several times that of Iran, he said.

One of the main goals of Washington is to solve the issue of Israeli-occupied lands in Palestine as soon as possible and to this end it has been trying to convince the Arab world through extensive propaganda that its real enemy is Islamic fundamentalism and not Israel, he said. Influnced by such poisonous propaganda, regional governments have embarked on massive arms purchases and signing long term defense pacts, the minister said.

Envoy, UN Official Meet, Discuss Afghan Refugees

LD0405092293 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 4, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansuri exchanged views with the U.N. secretary general's special envoy for Afghanistan affairs, Sotirios Mousouris, on home return of the Afghan refugees here Monday. Mansuri underlined the need for solidarity among all Afghan groups and expressed hope that the way would be paved for the establishment of lasting security and stability in Afghanistan and for reconstruction of the war-torn country through constructive negotiations. He voiced Iran's readiness to render assistance in this regard.

Meanwhile, the U.N. envoy underscored provision of such psychological grounds as improvement of economic situation and establishment of security in Afghanistan for the return of the Afghan refugees.

He pointed to recent measures made by the U.N. secretary general and to the resolution adopted by the 21st Karachi meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) as international efforts carried out to resolve the issue of Afghan refugees.

Saudis Praised for 'Good' Treatment of Pilgrims

LD0405105293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] The transfer of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God [Mecca] began from the first hours of this morning with over 5,000 Iranian pilgrims from Tehran, Mashhad, Tabriz, and Shiraz leaving for Jeddah. At a ceremony held on the occasion of the first flight of Iranian pilgrims, at Mehrabad airport, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Reyshahri, representative of the leader in the hajj and pilgrimage affairs and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, as well as the minister of culture and Islamic guidance ['Ali Larijani] made some remarks in which they stressed that Iranian pilgrims are the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They emphasized that Islamic slogans should be preserved and invited the pilgrims to cooperate with other Muslims in performing the hajj cereremonies. [passage omitted]

The correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran dispatched to Jeddah report on the first day of the arrival of Iranian pilgrims in [Saudi] Arabia.

[Unidentified correspondent] Since this morning Jeddah airport witnessed the regular landing of the Islamic Republic of Iran's planes and the arrival of waves of Iranian pilgrims. [passage omitted]

The orderly arrival and exit [from the airport] of Iranians and the good management of the convoys of Iranian pilgrims is among the points noticed by most foreign pilgrims in their discussions with Iranian correspondents. [passage omitted].

The good treatment received by the Iranian pilgrims from the Arabian police authorities is among the points noticed by correspondents on this first day of the journey of the pilgrims. The supervisor of the hajj headquarters,

based at Jeddah airport, also told the dispatched correspondent of the Central News Unit that up to now all the flights have been carried out successfully, and he thanked the Saudi Arabian authorities for their good and all- embracing cooperation in getting the Iranian pilgrims through the customs. [passage omitted]

According to the latest reports, as of 1400 Tehran time today, approximately 4,500 pilgrims arrived via 13 flights at Jeddah airport. Out of this number 3,300 were transferred to blessed Medina. [passage omitted]

DPK Urges Unity Against Iranian 'Plot'

NC0305063093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 2 May 93

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan on 1 May 1993—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On 14 April, the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] issued a statement informing of an inhuman plot being hatched by Iran, whose Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps would carry out an extensive attack against Kurdish-inhabited areas on the Iranian- Iraqi border areas on Ayatollah Khamene'i's orders and advance dozens of kilometers inside Iraq to crush the DPK and other opposition forces. [passage omitted]

When the DPK revealed the Islamic Republic's antipopular plot, much of the aggressive plan was incomplete and many of the offensive forces that would participate in the attack had yet to take up their positions. Apart from the DPK combatants, who believe in their party, and some experienced and realistic politicians, few took this threat seriously, although our party's warning was widely reported by foreign news agencies.

The Iranian regime's military expedition all over the country to the border areas between Iran and Iraq and beyond, the shelling of DPK positions from 19 April, and the resulting homelessness of thousands of Iranian and Iraqi women, children, and elderly people left no one in any doubt that the threat was serious.

On the same day our party issued its warning, the DPK peshmerga prepared themselves to confront the enemy forces' attacks. [passage omitted]

In the past two weeks, hundreds of letters of sympathy and declarations of support have been received by the DPK's Political Bureau from various groups and circles in Iraqi Kurdistan. Dozens and hundreds [as heard] of delegations have visited the Political Bureau headquarters and other DPK centers and expressed their readiness to support the Iranian Kurdish combatants and to safeguard the territory of Kordestan and the fruits of dozens of years of struggle and sacrifice. [passage omitted]

The humanitarian organizations that are represented in the cities of Iraqi Kurdistan responded positively to our party's call in an unprecedented manner. Most of these organizations visited the Political Bureau more than once and expressed their readiness to make our voice of oppression heard by international forums and to extend humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish refugees. Some of them witnessed the shelling of DPK positions and Kurdish farmers' houses by the Islamic Republic's artillery and told the world.

We will not forget how the Political Bureau headquarters became the focus of attention of the combatant organizations of Iraqi Kurdistan and of humanitarian organizations and forums.

Representatives of news agencies have carried out their duties to the full. Several correspondents from foreign newspapers, publications, and radio and television stations have visited DPK positions in the past two weeks and taken pictures and prepared reports on the peshmergas' readiness to confront the enemy's offensive and on the aftermath of the recent shelling and savage bombing by the Iranian Air Force on 13 March. [passage omitted]

The threat of Iran's military offensive against the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan remains. Forces brought to Kordestan from various parts of Iran and deployed in the border areas remain in position. Each day their number increases. Islamic Republic forces continue to shell villages and farmland in one area or another every day.

But Iranian officials should realize that if they attack Iraqi Kurdistan, they must face a strong wall of revolutionary determination from the people in Iraqi Kurdistan. They should realize how disgraced they will be in the eyes of the world and international forums and how isolated they will be.

Grateful to all the officials, parties, organizations, and strata that have supported the DPK and its just struggles, the DPK Political Bureau again calls on them to use every means to thwart the clerical regime's plot to attack Iraqi Kurdistan before it is hatched. Hoping for the further unity of all the wellwishers against the Islamic Republic's plots and machinations.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the DPK

[Date] 1 May 1993

Kurds Protest, Present Resolution in Oslo 27 Apr

NC0405101193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Esteemed listeners. Our party's office in Paris reports that on 27 April 1993, many Kurds in Norway protested the artillery attack on the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] of Iran and the border areas of Iraqi Kordestan.

At 1300, the demonstrations by students and Kurdish political refugees from across Kurdistan began in Oslo.

The demonstrators shouted antiregime slogans and support for the DPK as they moved toward the Norwegian Parliament. They paused for 20 minutes in front of parliament and their representatives handed a protest note to the head of the parliamentary committee. Following assurances by parliament that their problems and complaints would be investigated, they moved to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry shouting slogans against the Islamic Republic.

The demonstrators stopped outside the ministry for 30 seconds and handed in another protest note before going to the Islamic Republic's Embassy. When the demonstrators approached the regime's espionage apparatus, their fury, hatred, and loathing heightened and they shouted loud and resounding slogans against the regime.

The demonstrators congregated outside the entrance, shouted slogans, and read out a resolution endorsed by everyone present.

The resolution urged international organizations and circles and political and progressive institutions to foil the aggressive plot and expose the disgraceful treachery of the clerical regime.

Participating organizations and factions were:

a. The Iraqi Kurdistan Front in Norway.

b. The DPK of Iran Committee in Norway.

c. Political factions of Turkish Kurdistan.

d. The Committee for Cooperation With Kurdish People in Norway.

e. Representatives of the Rah-e Kargar [Workers Organization of Iran], Feda'i organization, and Baluch political parties.

The demonstrators in Oslo marched for a few hours and expressed their displeasure and abhorrence for the Islamic Republic's aggressive schemes. After reading out the resolution, they sang the anthem "Ey Raqib" and concluded their demonstration.

The text of the resolution read out by the demonstrators in Oslo is as follows:

1. The aggression and atrocities of the Islamic Republic's regime against the Kurdish people should be halted and condemned.

2. The (?incursion) into Iraqi Kurdistan, attack on the federal government of Kurdistan, and the aerial bombing of the DPK Political Bureau should be terminated.

3. Expressing our loathing for the Islamic Republic's aggression on the Kurdish people, we demand that the regime withdraw its forces from Kurdistan as soon as possible.

4. We warn that the deployment of Iranian forces in Kurdistan poses a major threat to the region's security and could ignite a devastating war in this part of the world that could lead to destruction and the killing of thousands of innocent humans.

5. We call on all progressive forces, humanitarian organizations, countries, and the United Nations to express their indignation and anger against this overt aggression by the clerical regime and urge them not to allow it to shed the blood of any more innocent Kurdish children, women, and elderly.

6. Such are the sensitive circumstances of the Kurdish nation, we call on all noble Kurdish progeny to mingle their cries of protest with the roar of the fury of Kurdish revolutionaries and to strive side by side with them to halt every kind of aggression.

'Tactical Phase' of Victory-4 Exercises Completed

LD0405202093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 93

[Report by Central News Unit, Bushehr]

[Text] The sixth phase of Victory-4 exercises was successfully staged and the predefined goals were reached.

[Unidentified correspondent] The last operational phase of the exercises, which was named the tactical phase and began yesterday, was completed today with the execution of predefined programs.

According to a report received from the joint operational headquarters of the Victory-4 exercises, using submarines, warships, destroyers, logistic ships, fast ships, and helicopters of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, and patrol, reconnaissance, and operational planes of the Air Force, the forces involved successfully carried out this phase of the exercises.

During the sixth phase of the Victory-4 exercises, the shore-to- sea missile unit of the Guards Corps demonstrated its battle and equipment strength.

The seventh phase of the Victory-4 exercises will involve a session for discussion about and evaluation of the programs carried out throughout the exercises and will be attended by Navy and Guards Corps commanders and experts.

Pakistan

Mazari Discusses Objectives of His Government

BK0205045093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said that the objectives of his government are to hold elections, to provide justice, and to keep the administration as clean as possible. In an interview with TV Asia,

he said present government is a caretaker setup with the objective of holding fair and free elections as already announced. He said the present government is not a weak government, and if anything is found against anybody, legal action will be taken and he will not spare even his own friends in this connection.

About certain parties' demand for the dissolution of the provincial assemblies, the prime minister said these legislative bodies are functioning properly in line with the constitutional requirements and he saw no reason for their dissolution. He, however, added that if it is found that provincial assemblies are not functioning properly, then they will have no hesitation in moving against them.

Answering a question about accountability, he said we will certainly be looking into it, as there have been some allegations about lack of transparency in the privatization process undertaken by the former government. Everybody knows that some major units were not sold in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Referring to the continuation of the economic policies, Mazari said good work done by the previous government will not be abandoned. He, however, clarified that policies pursued by the previous government were designed only for big businesses and were not benefiting the 75 percent of the population living in rural areas.

About Pakistan-India relations, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said if India adopts a reasonable attitude, things will be all right and problems could be settled amicably. In this connection, he referred to the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said he has already ordered that all those staying illegally in Pakistan should be deported to countries of their origin or to a country of their own choice. He pointed out that a large number of people from some Muslim countries had taken part in the Afghan holy war and now when it is over, there is no reason for them to stay in Pakistan and create problems. We will not allow them to remain in Pakistan anymore and try to destabilize some other country, he asserted.

New Prime Minister Outlines Policies

BK0405145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said free, fair, and impartial elections will be held on the due date and his government will take all necessary measures to make the process transparent and credible. The prime minister was making a statement in the Senate today.

[Begin Mazari recording] Mr. Chairman, my mandate is quite clear. We are a caretaker government. We are here for a specific purpose and duration. Our first and foremost task is to hold free, fair, and impartial elections on the due date. We are determined to discharge our responsibilities in this regard honorably, insha Allah [God willing]. We will spare no effort to fulfill our commitment to the nation and to satisfaction of every Pakistani, so that we may be able to restore the confidence and the faith of the people in this government.

My government and colleagues will not put restrictions on any legitimate political activity and without any discrimination every political party and individual will be free to propagate their manifestos and programs. We will rather facilitate their tasks within the bounds of law. We will take all necessary measures to make the process of elections transparent and credible. Nothing will be left out to ensure free, fair, and impartial elections. [applause]. Mr. Chairman, sir, but we also expect the political parties and their leaders that they too adhere to the democratic traditions and respect the law. While they will be free to publicize their manifestos, we will not tolerate any attempt on the part of anyone to propagate against Islam, or the integrity of the country, or against the armed forces, nor would we permit anybody to disrupt law and order in the country. We want total peace and tranquillity to prevail in this country. We hope that political leaders would come and cooperate with us so that the people of Pakistan could express their verdict freely, without any fear or apprehension. [end recording]

The prime minister, in his first speech in the Senate after assuming office, dwelt at length on the political situation, direction of foreign policy, Kashmir issue, economic measures of the previous government, and his determination to stamp out corruption and terrorism. About the present situation, he said the challenge is formidable and it needs all the wisdom, sagacity, and farsightedness of the nation to cope with. A critical role has to be played by the political leadership. They have to rise above petty politics and cheap popularity for the sake of supreme national interest. The government, he said, will continue with the economic measures and will honor all contractual obligations of the previous government. Policies of liberalization, deregulation, investment and privatization will be pursued with greater speed and transparency. The prime minister criticized the previous regime for rampant maladministration and nepotism which, he said, had made the life of the common man miserable. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said it is regrettable that the process of privatization lacked transparency and public funds and assets were massively wasted and dissipated. The deficit financing and domestic and international debt continued to soar at an alarming pace, adversely affecting the national interests, including defense.

About the foreign policy, he said his government will pursue with great vigor the traditional policy of the country of forging friendship with all and enmity against none. We will retain peace within and peace outside as a cornerstone of our policy. He declared categorically that Pakistan condemns every kind of terrorism and it will not permit itself to be used by anyone to spread violence in other countries.

The house also held inconclusive discussion on the admissibility of four identical privilege motions on dissolution of the National Assembly. The motions were sought to be moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmed, Raja Mohammad Asif, Mr. Abdul Rahim Mando Khel, and retired Brigadier Malik Mohammad Hayat. The prime minister has appointed Mr. Tariq Chaudhary as leader of the house in the Senate. The house will now meet tomorrow morning.

Portfolios of Special Assistants Announced

BK0505030693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has allocated the portfolio of the Ministry of Law and Justice to Iqbal Ahmad Khan.

The portfolios of various special assistants to the prime ministers have also been announced. These are:

Information—Hussain Aqqani

Railways—Mian Mohammad Shafi

Local Bodies and Rural Development—Chaudhary Abdul Sattar

Planning and Development—Mian Abdul Khalid

Petroleum and natural Resources—Gul Hamid Khan Rokari

Finance and Economic Affairs—Akbar Ali Bhatti

Religious Affairs—Syed Hamid Sayeed Qazmi

Prime Minister's Secretariat—Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad

Production—Qayum Nizami

New Foreign Minister Sworn In; Biography Given

BK0405124193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 4 May 93 p 2

[Text] Islamabad (AFP)—S. Sharifuddin Pirzada was sworn in as Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs in the caretaker government of Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari on April 29, 1993. Following is the bio-data of the foreign minister.

Born in 1923. He obtained his degree in law from Bombay University in 1945 and was later admitted to the Bar by Lincolns Inn.

Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada has been closely associated with the political movement of the Muslims of the Sub-continent which led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947. During 1941-44 he had the privilege to serve as honorary secretary to the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during 1945-47 he was secretary, Bombay city Muslim League. He was in charge of publicity campaign of the Bombay Muslim League during the general elections in 1946. He was Managing Editor of Morning Herald (English daily of Bombay) in 1947. Since the creation of Pakistan, S. Sharifuddin Pirzada has served in various capacities holding high offices in the government. A synoptic view of Pirzada's career is given below:

1961—Adviser to the Constitution Commission of Pakistan;

1961-68—Member, International Rivers Committee of International Law Association;

1962—Chairman, Company Law Comission;

1964—President, Karachi High Court Bar Association;

1964-1967—President, International Law Association, Pakistan Branch;

1966—Represented Pakistan in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference;

1966-68—Foreign Minister of Pakistan;

1967—He moved the Resolution about the status of Jerusalem which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3rd July, 1967.

1969—President, Afro Asian Legal Consultative Committee;

—Chairman, Experts committee for drafting statute of Islamic International Court of Justice;

1971—Represented Pakistan in the Commonwealth Law Minister and Attorneys General conference;

—Represented Pakistan in international fora and before international tribunals;

—Appeared for Pakistan in Runn of Kutch Case and in Pakistan's complaint against India in the matter of overflights;

—Counsel in the Reference regarding Namibia before the International Court of Justice;

1972—Member United Nations Sub-comission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities since 1972;

1978-1979—Led Pakistan delegation to the Law of the Sea Conference held in New York (1978-79) and in Geneva in 1980;

—Chairman, Investigation and Working Group of Complaints of UN Subcommission for Minorities and Discrimination;

1979-84—Attorney General of Pakistan and Federal Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs;

1981-86—Member, International Law Commission;

1985-88—Secretary-General, Organisation of Islamic conference;

1989 to date—Chairman National Hijra Counci (heritage commission) and Ambassador-at Large, government of Pakistan with Federal Minister's status; and

1993—Assumed office as Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 29 April, 1993.

Awards:

Received high awards from France, Jordan, Syria, West Germany and South Korea.

Publications;

1941—Pakistan at a Glance, Bomaby;

1943—Jinnah on Pakistan, Bombay;

—Leaders Correspondence with Jinnah;

1962—Evolution of Pakistan, Karachi (also published in Urdu & Arabic);

1966—Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Remedies in Pakistan, Lahore:

1970—The Pakistan Resolution and the Historic Lahore Session, Islamabad;

1971—Foundations of Pakistan (3 volumes);

1978—Some aspects of Quaid—Azam's life;

1989—Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Pakistan;

—Collected works of Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, volumes I, II and III (other volumes in Press).

Former Prime Minister Rejects Government Accusations

BK0305034093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has criticized the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the government. Addressing a public meeting in Quetta yesterday evening, he referred to his government's schemes under which the country's educated youth were provided with respectable means to earn their living. Rejecting accusations against him, he said he has served the people with full dedication and sincerity. The meeting also adopted a resolution rejecting the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government.

Sharif Wants Assemblies Dissolved Now

BK0405115593 Karachi DAWN in English 4 May 93 p 1

[Text) Islamabad, May 3—Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif here on Monday announced his support to APC's [all-party conference's] demand that all the four provincial assemblies should be dissolved and the election be conducted under the supervision of the army.

"All the four assemblies should be dissolved and their corrupt governments dismissed to have fair and free elections in Pakistan," he said.

Speaking at a news conference at the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] media centre, he pointed out that the President was involved in worst kind of horse-trading and had installed the Wattoo government in Punjab only through share blackmailing.

"These assemblies and government are a curse on Pakistan. Therefore, they must be removed immediately," Nawaz Sharif further demanded.

As a matter of fact, he said, the whole political system of the country needed to be changed to have undiluted democracy where only the honest and "nation-loving politicians could be allowed to serve their people without any material benefit. [no end quotes as published]

Nawaz Sharif said that corrupt and unscrupulous people were running the provincial governments, which must not be allowed to continue any more.

Responding to a question, he said the way things were moving he was not sure whather the forthcoming elections would be held in a fair and free manner. "That is why I believe that these polls [must] be supervised by the army."

However he said he would soon consult his partymen where a formal decision would be taken about the holding of election by the Army instead of any other organisation.

"Under the prevailing circumstances we would have to examine whether we should take part in the elections being organised by a caretaker government which is full of opportunists and has no political support in the masses," he asserted.

The former prime minister once again criticised President Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] and asked him to step down.

Asked whether he would go for impeachment of the President in case his government was restored by the Supreme Court, he said. "I would advise him (GIK) to quit before that situation arises."

The deposed prime minister accused President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of working against the interest of the country and said he must be forced to leave the presidency.

"I am afraid the country may not plunge into unprecedented difficulties if the President is not asked to go," [as published] he said, adding that the President was responsible for keeping the present lot of hypocrites and dishonest rulers in the provinces.

Commenting on the appointment of a three-member committee for conducting accountability against him and his colleagues, Nawaz Sharif said those who were

themselves scoundrels had been asked by the President to do our accountability." [no begin quotes as published]

He said Mian Zahid Safraz had been involved in car scandal and had earned millions of rupees by acquiring huge land illegally from the Faisalabad Development Authority.

"The President should be first asked to face same accountability for having appointed such a third-rate committee," Nawaz Sharif alleged.

Answering a question, the former premier said he was prepared for any kind of accountability. However, he demanded that the President's relatives and son-in-law "who have been involved in all kinds of financial bungling and criminal activities should be asked to face this accountability."

"We intend to shortly release a report prepared by a government organisation about the President's son-in-law that will fully expose them," Nawaz Sharif said.

He said Ihsan-ul-Haq Piracha was involved in a cooperative scandal and as such his appointment as a committee member was also quite objectionable. The Lahore High Court had charged him (Piracha) for financial irregularities, he added.

Talking about the controversial 8th Amendment, the ousted prime minister said he would cooperate with all the political parties to undo that amendment.

He said he was receiving a big reception everywhere in the country. "It is an ample proof against the dissolution of the National Assembly." He said the entire nation was accusing the President of "harming the national interest by dismissing my government."

He regretted that the media was not giving him proper coverage. In this regard he referred to his public meeting at Quetta on Sunday and claimed that this was the biggest-ever in the history of Balochistan.

"I have seen people hating President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and his decision to remove government is being condemned throughout the country," he claimed.

Ex-Premier To Be Tried in Special Court

BK0505095393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 5 May 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The caretaker Prime Minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, Tuesday wished that the process of accountability against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif be initated in the special speedy trial courts set up during his (Nawaz) own rule.

Answering newsmen's questions at parliament house after delivering a speech in the Senate, Mazari, however, clarified that decision of the trial of Nawaz Sharif and his companions would be based on the nature of case to case corruption charges.

Mazari said that by dubbing provincial assemblies as corrupt, Nawaz Sharif had finally realised that assemblies functioning during his (Nawaz) rule were corrupt.

Denying any differences in the caretaker cabinet, Mazari vowed that all decisions of national importance would be made with national consensus.

Earlier, expressing his views on recent political developments in the Senate, the prime minister assured that first and foremost task of his government was to hold free, fair and impartial elections on the due date. Many members thumped their desks when Mazari said "my mandate is quite clear. We are caretaker government. We are here for a specific purpose and duration. We are determined to discharge our responsibilities honourably. We will spare no effort to fulfill our commitment to the national with the satisfaction of every Pakistani".

Mazari vowed that his government would not put restrictions on legitimate political activities. "Every political party and individual will be free to propagate their manifestoes and programmes. We would rather facilitate their task within the bounds of law. We will take all the necessary measures to make the process of elections transparent and credible. Nothing will be left out to ensure free, fair and impartial elections".

At the same time Mazari expected that political parties and their leaders would adhere to democratic traditions and canons of law. "The critical role has to be played by the political leadership at this time when the nation is going through a decisive moment in its history. Our political leadership have to rise above petty politics and cheap poplarity", he maintained.

Turning to what he said Nawaz Sharifs failure to pay due recognition to the dignity of parliament, Mazari said without naming Nawaz, during his 30-month rule, he hardly "visited" the Senate.

Former Intelligence Chief 'Retired' From Army

BK0405120593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 May 93 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi—Lieutenant General Javed Nasir, who was removed as the director general of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) only a few days ago, has been retired from the Army, according to official sources. A spokesman of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed this on Monday.

The general from the Engineering Corps, who had acquired notoriety for his extreme religious views, has received his marching orders some six months earlier than his normal retirement date.

About the reasons for the general's dismissal, an ISPR spokesman had nothing to say other than repeat the old army maxim: "In the Army we implement orders, we do not question them."

It is believed however that the general's irresponsible behavior as the head of the ISI—a post he held for thirteen months after his transfer as chairman of the Pakistan Ordinance Factory Wah—has a lot to do with his premature retirement.

The general who piqued himself on being a mujahid (a warrior of God) was deeply involved in Afghanistan, some of whose leaders he had developed close personal relations with. Moreover, on sensitive issues such as Kashmir, the general's views jarred with the country's declared policy, which often caused complications on the foreign policy front.

It was for this reason that during his thirteen-month tenure as DG [director general] ISI—which began from March, 1992 after his nomination by the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was endorsed by GHQ [General Headquarters]—was marked by unedifying controversies about the role of the intelligence outfit in foreign policy. Some quarters also accused the ISI under General Nasir of interference in domestic politics on behalf of the Nawaz Sharif government.

The general's political affiliations were a matter of common knowledge. His appointment as DG ISI was hailed by the Nawaz Sharif camp as a major victory in their war of nerves against the late chief of Army Staff [COAS], General Asif Nawaz. From that point onwards the general was closely identified with the Sharif government. After the death of Asif Nawaz, many in the Sharif camp vigorously lobbied for General Javed Nasir's appointment as the army chief, losing sight of the fact that no general from the Engineering Corps could be appointed as COAS. When the Nawaz Sharif government was dismissed, General Javed Nasir was one of the few people who were seen at Prime Minister's House flanking the sacked premier.

Troops Deployed for Sindh Assembly By-Elections

BK0405153693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The voting in the by-elections for 20 vacant seasts of the Sindh Provincial Assembly will take place tomorrow. The polling will continue from 0800 to 1700 without any break, but the voters who are within the precincts of the polling stations will be allowed to cast their votes even after 1700. The Election Commission has finalized all arrangements in this regard and the chief election commissioner has appointed inspection teams which will be present in the control room of the relevant returning officers to investigate complaints about irregularities.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1350 GMT on 4 May, in a similar report adds: "A heavy troop deployment was carried out here Tuesday on the eve of Sindh province by-elections being held amid tensions following the murder of a prominent political leader.

"Voters are to go to the polls Wednesday to elect representatives for 20 provincial assembly seats.

"About a dozen seats are to be contested in Karachi, the provincial capital, with the rest in the cities of Hyderabad and Mirpur Khas.

"The elections come four days after the slaying of Azim Ahmed Tariq, chairman of ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), by unidentified gunmen.

"The seats became vacant when MQM members resigned from the provincial legislature in June last year to protest an army-led crackdown on crime ordered in Sindh by the then government of deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"The MQM, a party of Mohajirs, or Urdu-speaking people, who migrated from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent, was thrown into disarray by the army operation and split into different groups.

"One faction, allied to MQM founder Altaf Hussain who now resides in London, has boycotted the by-elections to protest Tariq's murder.

"Turnout for the elections was expected to be low, analysts said, due to political tensions and the boycott by the pro-Hussain group.

"However, another faction, known as the MQM Haqiqi, and the Peoples Democratic Alliance of former premier Benazir Bhutto will contest the elections.

"Mohajir settlers make up the majority of the population in the three urban centers where the by-elections are being held. Sindh province has long been troubled by ethnic, social and political rivalries."]

Jamaat-e Eslami Rules Out Joining Caretaker Regime

BK0305122193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 May 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Ruling out any possibility of Jamaat-e Eslami's [JI] induction in caretaker set-up, the chief of the party, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, feared that country was being pushed towards martial law by creating intentional disintegration.

Talking to newsmen at his residence here on Saturday, the Jamaat leader said that the dissolution of National Assembly was not the political decision of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, rather it was a tyrannic bureaucratic decision.

The reality of those who were claiming to eradicate corruption from society, he said, had been unveiled by appointing the present caretaker cabinet. The Cabinet is the negation of their claims and a joke with the nation.

Since the creation of Pakistan, he said, whatsoever was happening here is like puppet show. A specific group of people always ruled the country some time in the shape

of Benazir Bhutto and sometime in the shape of Nawaz Sharif and nowadays we have Mazari. He stressed the need for getting rid of the group of usurpers.

He lamented that the president and the former prime minister fought against each other at the stage when there was dire need of giving full attention to issues like Kashmir and Afghanistan.

When asked about Jamaat's inclusion in the caretaker setup, he said: "The question of Jamaat's induction in the caretaker Cabinet cannot arise." The Jamaat-e Eslami, he said, would maintain its unique role.

When asked about the election strategy of the party, he said the JI would not make election alliance either with Nawaz Sharif or with the Pakistan People's Party. He said during the forthcoming general elections the JI would raise slogan against feudals, bureaucrats, and industrialists.

"The Jamaat want common people to rule the country," he said.

President Khan Urged To Step Down Voluntarily

BK0405122993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Apr 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Inconsistencies With the Interim Government—Responsibility of His Excellency, the President"]

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] Central Executive Committee has decided that the ministers representing the party will resign after 4 May, if the provincial assemblies are not dissolved. Similarly, the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] has also sought the resignation of its two ministers in protest against the president's statement on the provincial assemblies. The NDA asks what can be expected in the future from a president who eats his words today.

According to a report, the PPP has sought the resignation of its 40 members in the Sindh Assembly. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has reiterated his contention that there is no justification for the provincial assemblies to be intact after the dissolution of the National Assembly. Therefore, they should also be dissolved. The cold war going on between His Excellency the President and his allies in the past few days over the dissolution of the provincial assemblies has surfaced, which clearly indicates that the atmosphere of trust between the president and three major partners of the interim government is gone now. Besides, the manner in which the allotment of portfolios among the members has been made indicates that no minister and his party is satisfied over it and, over the past three days, the issue of inducting new ministers into the Cabinet has also been put on cold storage. And, until today, the swearing-in ceremony has been postponed.

On the question of the nomination of a Punjab governor, on one side the PPP and on the other Mr. Pir Pagaro are outraged and say the president is guilty of committing a breach of trust. The PPP's Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq says that the party nominated him for the gubernatorial post in Punjab but somebody else was sworn in, implying that he was hoodwinked. Pir Pagara says he wanted to see Aheer Naseem as the governor of Punjab. Ignoring the candidates nominated by both of them, His Excellency the President imposed the governor of his own choice. Thus, besides Nawaz Sharif and his allies, the favorite lobby created by the president, the caretaker government, and their allied forces have now joined the list of those who are outraged by the decisions of the president, and public opinion against the president is gaining momentum. As a former Senate chairman, His Excellency the President had popularity in the Senate, but the statement published by Senator Bahrawar Sayeed says half of the members will move an impeachment motion againt Preasident Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Senate session convened on 3 May.

In Punjab, with a view to saving the assembly, the chief minister got the support of 157 members on the promise of allotting portfolios to them. Now it has become the arena of a new tug of war as, in fact, the formation of such a big Cabinet and an army of advisers is impossible. Therefore, the wrath of the provincial assembly members, who shifted their allegiance, is to be seen. The fact is that His Excellency the President, to overcome the effects of the mistake of dissolving the government and the National Assembly, is committing one mistake after another. The rage and fury of the people is also there being ventilated through the rallies and meetings organized by fomer Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The current situation is heading toward a point of no return and there is no hope for normalization of the situation untill the courts play their due role to set right the current complicated situation. The responsibility of the establishment of the country is to deny support to decisions and steps which harm the country, and to create an opportunity for the democratic, parliamentary, and political system to flourish. Taking the current situation into account, if His Excellency the President, even now, voluntarily sets aside his presidential candidacy and surrenders his chair to the Senate chairman as required by the Constitution admitting that he cannot manage it now, there will be some way to come out of the present crisis. According to a TV news bulletin, His Excellency the President has begun his daily meetings with the members of the defunct National Assembly. There is some motive behind this and if in the event of the restoration of the National Assembly by court verdict, a drama like the one played in the Punjab assembly is repeated against Nawaz Sharif, it would imply that the elderly and honorable president has not learned any lesson from the situation and the country will be dragged toward one crisis after another. And consequently, God forbid, the Army may, albeit unwillingly, take the opportunity to play its role, which may bring serious consequences to the nation and the Army itself. It would be better if His Excellency the President forgives the country and voluntarily steps down from power and gives an opportunity for the political system to be back

on track. He has twice dissolved the elected governments and elected assemblies. When the government of his making fails to make a start, why should he be stubborn? God will definitely grant a reward to him for his good deed [of stepping down from the President's post] to the country.

Reaction to U.S.'s South Asia, Terrorism Policies Reported

Mazari Meeting With U.S. Envoy Noted

BK0105113993 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 30 Apr 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Caretaker Prime Minister's Solid Stand"]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador John Cameron Monjo called on the caretaker prime minister, Balkh Sher Mazari, yesterday. During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister reiterated the policy being pursued by Pakistan so far. That is, Pakistan wants to promote cordial relations with the United States, but will not compromise on principles. The acting prime minister told the U.S. ambassador that Pakistan is a peaceful country and the charges of terrorism leveled against it are baseless and there is no justification to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Describing the freedom movement in Kashmir as spontaneous, the acting prime minister impressed upon the U.S. ambassador that Pakistan is not providing the Kashmiris with any material help, but it will not abandon its moral, diplomatic, and political support to them. The caretaker prime minister also clarified his categorical stance on nuclear program. He said we cannot give up our peaceful nuclear program which is meant for accomplishing our economic and industrial progress as well as meeting our energy crisis. Pakistan will not sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty unilaterally.

Discussing the political situation, the caretaker prime minister reiterated that he believes in the rule of law and the elections will be held on the date announced. He said his government wants to strengthen Pakistan-U.S. relations and the current difficulties will soon be overcome through mutual consultations.

The stand adopted by the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, on the peaceful nuclear program and the Kashmir issue are praiseworthy. Hopefully, the caretaker prime minister will strictly adhere to policies which will really be in the interest of the nation during his tenure. His stand not to make any compromise on principles for the sake of ties with the United States bears testimony to his sense of patriotism.

U.S. South Asian Policy Criticized

BK0405144993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 1 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Equal Treatment by the United States"]

[Text] A senior U.S. State Department official, while testifying before the congressional Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, stated that Pakistan and India will be treated equally on the questions of eliminating terrorism, the human rights issue, and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and that the focus of the Clinton administration's South Asian policy will be on ensuring stability and nuclear nonproliferation in the region. It was expected that after the assumption of power by the Clinton administration, the Pressler Amendment and other discriminatory legislation and the Bush administration's policies would be revised and the process of tightening the noose around Pakistan and providing India with the opportunity to act arbitrarily would come to an end; but that expectation has still not been realized. Clinton administration officials, however, continue to give pleasing statements from time to time, which create an impression among the U.S. public and international public opinion that the United States truly favors treating India and Pakistan equally. Lately, the State Department official has given similar assurances, but, practically, attempts are being made to have Pakistan included on the list of terrorist states. The noose is being tightened around Pakistan and Sudan and the pressure of the Pressler Amendment is being applied solely on Pakistan. While moral support and assistance to the Kashmiri people waging a struggle for freedom in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions is also being termed as terrorism, which is outrageous, no note is being taken of the worst kind of terrorism in history, which India has been perpetrating in Kashmir and East Punjab. Even Pakistan's human rights record is better than that of India, but only Pakistan's name is being vilified in this regard. Hence, unless and until the Clinton administration takes any practical steps, it cannot be believed that it desires to treat India and Pakistan equally.

UK, France Said To Differ With U.S.

BK0405125793 Karachi DAWN in English 4 May 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 3—Britain does not share the United States perception about declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Sir Nicholas Barrington is understood to have told Pakistan authorities.

Sir Nicholas who called on the new Foreign Minister, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada on Monday, is believed to have told the Minister that his country was not convinced that Pakistan was involved in terrorism.

Foreign Ministry sources told DAWN the French Ambassador, who also called on Mr Pirzada, was of the same view about Pakistan in regard to terrorism.

Mr. John C. Monjo, the Ambassador of United States, is learnt to have informed the Minister about the latest position of his country on the issue which, sources said, does not list Pakistan as a terrorist state.

"Mr. Monjo went back from the meeting a happy and satisfied man," a close source to the Foreign Minister said.

The source said the U.S. Ambassador was likely to call on the Foreign Minister again on Tuesday along with Lady Robin Raphael, the first wife of the late U.S. Ambassador who died in the C-130 crash with General Zia-ul Haq.

Mrs. Raphael is presently political Counsellor of the United States in New Delhi and is expected to take up the key position of Assistant Secretary of State for South East Asia in Washington soon.

Sources said the US position on the nuclear issue was also changing in favour of Pakistan as Washington was now examining the nuclear question in the "overall South Asian context."

In diplomatic language, this means that Pakistan was now no longer being treated separately and its nuclear policy would be judged in the context of its relations with India.

The most successful meeting, according to Foreign Ministry sources, was between the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries and Foreign Minister Pirzada.

"These countries expressed the desire to counter the United States pressure on Pakistan to declare it a terrorist state," a source said.

"Pakistan is the last frontier of the Islamic Ummah [community] and the GCC countries are preparing to counter the propaganda and pressure against Islamabad," the ambassadors are believed to have told the Foriegn Minister.

The Foreign Ministry, it is learnt, is preparing briefs for the GCC ambassadors giving Pakistan's position on the terrorist state issue and to inform them about the developments in detail.

The steps taken by Pakistan, including the sacking of the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] chief and his premature retirement from the Army, have gone down well with the Washington administration and positive outcome is now expected, the sources said.

U.S. Said To Interfere in Internal Affairs

BK0405120293 Karachi DAWN in English
4 May 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, May 3—Jamaat-e Eslami [JE] chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad said on Monday that his party would not join hands with Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif "as both of them are toeing the U.S. line."

Talking to newsmen in the Parliament Building on Monday Qazi Hussain Ahmad said both PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership and Nawaz Sharif's Muslim League were two sides of the same coin. He said both parties were toeing the U.S. line and were responsible for the present U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan was so blatant that it was now dictating the economic, internal and foreign policies to the government.

He said the U.S. Consul General in Peshawar had recently summoned the provincial home secretary of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and asked him to oust all the Arab nationals from Pakistan. "This is a very serious situation."

The JE chief said the United States had no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. "We will unite the nation to free itself from the US hold so that we can make independent decisions in the interest of the country," he said.

Asked whether his party was considering to join the interim government, Jamaat-e Eslami chief replied in the negative. He said his party was preparing itself for the forthcoming general elections and had no plans to join caretaker government.

He severely criticised former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and accused him of violating the mandate and the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] manifesto. "He had violated the mandate of the people and should now seek the forgiveness of God," he said adding "he had given preference to the advice of U.N. Secretary General's representative on Afghanistan Benon Sevon when Peshawar Accord was being signed against our will," he complained. [sentence as published]

Qazi Hussain Ahmad opposed the dissolution of provincial assemblies and said that such action would create "more vacuum" in the present political situation. "This vacuum should not increase."

Asked to comment on the government's decision to initiate accountability process against the former prime minister and his colleagues, Qazi said, "Who will hold the accountability. There are many people against whom references are still pending in the courts but they are now sitting in the government. Only those people can conduct accountability who are themselves clean."

Steps To Avoid Terrorism Charge Cited

BK0405120193 Karachi DAWN in English
4 May 93 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, May 3—Pakistan has taken a number of measures to avoid being declared by the United States a terrorist state, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan said on Monday.

He told DAWN that the caretaker government had taken "some concrete steps" to satisfy the US government regarding the terrorism issue.

"Our new efforts are bearing fruit and we are given to understand by our foreign friends that Washington would not declare Pakistan a terrorist state" he claimed.

Responding to a question he said that operation clean-up against illegal foreign immigrants stationed in Peshawar was one of the main efforts that was likely to be appreciated in a big way, particularly in the United States.

He said that the caretaker government had expedited matters recently to remove all illegal immigrants from Peshawar as early as possible and "this move has largely statisfied our American friends".

Moreover, the Foreign Affairs Secretary said that Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari's recent meeting with US Ambassador, Mr Manjo, had been quite fruitful. "Our point of view is now being understood in a better way".

He hoped that the new Government of Pakistan would resolve the issue of terrorism and that the US would not declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Answering a question, he said that the US position over the issue was the same and that they had said that they would continue observing Pakistan for another two years.

He said although the issue was very serious from Pakistan's point of view, "we are hopeful that our latest contact with the US government will help improve relations between the two countries and the issue of terrorism would be ultimately resolved."

To a question, he said that the US government had not indicated anything about Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay bombings. He said Pakistan had mainly been accused of involvement in Indian East Punjab and Occupied Kashmir for supporting Kashmir militants.

The foreign Secretary did not offer any comment when asked what were the other measures being taken to satisfy the US government besides action against illegal immigrant in Peshawar, he said, "You would know very soon".

He said the US government viewed Prime Minister Mazari's speech at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers conference at Karachi as very encouraging with regard to removal of doubts about Pakistan's involvement in any terrorist activities.

Overall, the Foreign Secretary said, the relations between the United States and Pakistan had improved specially after the caretaker government was inducted in Islamabad.

"The new government is working with sincerity of purpose and we are sure that our efforts would not go unnoticed not only to have good relations with the United States but also to prevent Washington from declaring Pakistan a terrorist state". Mr. Shaharyar Khan said.

Agencies add: A foreign office spokesman said on Monday that Pakistan would not give in to the demands of the Afghan terrorists in exchange of the kidnapped people but was making all possible efforts to get released the British, Dutch and German diplomats.

The spokesman was commenting on the kidnapping of Jack Dodds of Britain, Stephan Elhart of Germany and Gert Peinign of Holland on April 22 when they entered Afghanistan.

He said the diplomats were advised not to venture into the area. However Pakistan government was making every possible endeavour to retrieve them.

The demands being made by the kidnappers on Pakistan should not and could not be accepted. Pakistan as a matter of principle could not accept the demands of the terrorist elements and it would adhere to principles.

According to reports reaching here the foreign diplomats were kidnapped by Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar Group) which was demanding the release of its two prisoners who were arrested on April 10 on charges of gun running.

Threat of Terrorism Label 'Over'

BK0505095993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Unwarranted Threat"]

[Text] By all indications the threat from the United States to declare Pakistan a terrorist state is over. The State Department's annual report which was submitted to Congress last week listed the same countries as were included in its previous report as sponsoring international terrorism. Pakistan had been put on the so-called watch list by the outgoing Bush administration on the suspicion of its involvement in the freedom struggle in Occupied Kashmir and in Indian Punjab. The fact that Pakistan's name does not appear in the latest State Department report on terrorism clearly vindicates its position that it is not extending any material assistance or support to individuals, groups or parties in Indian-held Kashmir or to the Sikh militants.

It is mainly India which has been spinning canards against Pakistan in its eagerness to have it declared a terrorist state. Various think-tanks in that country, the Centre of Policy Study, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], and the Ministry of External Affairs, have been concocting stories and communicating them to foreign missions and intelligence agencies to tarnish the image of Pakistan. The Indian media is also an active partner in this nefarious activity. The object of this campaign has been spelled out by former Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar who is now the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He publicly stated that "getting Pakistan declared a terrorist state is as good as winning a war against Pakistan without actually fighting one". The haste with which the Indian leaders blamed Pakistan for the Bombay blasts is a clear pointer to their intentions.

On its part, the Government of Pakistan has given full assurance to the United States that it would not encourage or support any activity which can be termed as terrorism. Moreover, Pakistan has taken a number of urgent measures to avoid being declared a terrorist state. As Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan said in a newspaper interview, the caretaker government has taken "some concrete steps" to satisfy the US administration regarding the terrorism issue. The operation clean- up against illegal foreign immigrants stationed in Peshawar, he added, was one of the main efforts that was likely to be appreciated in a big way in the United States. Other important Western countries, Britain and France, are also not convinced that Pakistan is involved in terrorism. Diplomatic heads of these two countries expressed this view when they called on Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada in Islamabad. As the Pakistan Charge d'Affaires said in Washington, the "unfortunate issue of terrorism will soon be behind us in the context of Pakistan-US relations". It is now certain that the unwarranted issue would fizzle out ultimately.

Mazari To Depart for Colombo Funeral 6 May

BK0405163293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, will leave Islamabad for Colombo on Thursday [6 May; change of date as heard] morning to attend the funeral of the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa. Radio Pakistan's representative says the prime minister's presence in President Premadasa's funeral is a mark of Pakistan's respect for him and its close and friendly ties with Sri Lanka.

The Government of Pakistan has decided to observe the state mourning on Thursday as a mark of respect to the memory of the president of Sri Lanka, the late Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. The national flag will fly at half mast on that day.

Foreign Minister Holds Meetings With Envoys

BK0505114293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, has been holding meetings with ambassadors of various countries to discuss Pakistan's bilateral relations and to bring to their attention priorities, concerns, and issues concerning the caretaker government. A Foreign Office spokesman briefing newsmen in Islamabad today said that the foreign minister has already met the ambassadors of five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Japan and Germany as well as those of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. He said the foreign minister has explained to them constitutional nature of transition in Pakistan and underlined Pakistan's desire to solve all bilateral and multilateral external issues on the basis of principles and in consistence with the policy which it had traditionally adopted.

Meets Iranian, Turkish, Other Envoys

BK0405143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The envoys of Iran, Turkey, Russia, Britain and France held separate meetings with the foreign minister, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada. Talking to the Iranian and Turkish ambassadors, the foreign minister discussed the follow-up action on resolutions adopted by the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Karachi. Matters relating to ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] also came up for discussion.

The foreign minister assured the envoy of the Russian Federation that his government desires to maintain close and friendly relations with his government. In meetings with envoys of France and Britain, views were exchanged on further improving bilateral relations. They also discussed the regional and international situation.

Akram Zaki, Tajik Foreign Minister Hold Talks

BK3004114893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Wide-ranging talks were held between the Tajik foreign minister, Mr. Rashid Olimov, and the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, in Karachi this morning. They explored avenues to further expand communications, economic, and trade links between the two countries. Besides bilateral relations, the talks included using of transit facilities and promotion of air links, in particular, between the two countries. Mr. Akram Zaki said that Pakistan attached special attention to its relations with Tajikistan being one of the closest neighboring countries among the Central Asian Republics. He also apprised Mr. Rashid Olimov, of Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and massive human rights violation in the Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir. The Tajik foreign minister stressed the need for greater economic cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan. He lauded Pakistan for making excellent arrangements for the Islamic foreign ministers conference.

Relief Plane Leaves Islamabad for Azerbaijan

BK0405150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] A plane carrying relief goods left Islamabad for Azerbaijan today. The consignment weighing 25,000 pounds consists of medicine, dry milk and tent. The dispatch of relief goods reflect the goodwill the people and Government of Pakistan have for their brethren and Government in Azerbaijan.

Accord Signed To Supply Cement Plant to Kazakhstan

BK0205155493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Pakistan will supply a dry process cement plant to Kazakhstan with a production capacity of 1,000 to 2,000

tons per day. An agreement to this effect was signed in Kazakhstan. Under the agreement, the Heavy Mechanical Complex [in] Taxila will design, manufacture, and supervise the erection and commissioning of the plant.

Brother of al-Sadat Assassin Fled to 'Neighboring Country'

NC0505115293 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 May 93 p 43

[Text] After Pakistan's campaign of arrests of "Afghan" Arabs on its territory on the border with Afghanistan last month, Ahmad Shawqi al-Islambuli, brother of Khalid al-Islambuli, who assassinated al-Sadat, fled Pakistan and took shelter in a neighboring country. It is not known whether he fled to Iran or Afghanistan. There is no ruling out that the Pakistani authorities may have facilitated al-Islambuli's escape after Egypt forwarded an official request to hand him over.

The Pakistani police arrested him last month during the campaign of arrests of "Afghan" Arabs, but released him, later claiming that al-Islambuli carried new forged identity papers, because of which the Pakistani authorities could not identify him and thus freed him.

Al-Islambuli is likely to have gone to Iran, not Afghanistan, especially as Pakistani Interior Minister Jamshed Burki announced a few days ago that the "Afghan" Arabs are free to go to any country they want except Afghanistan, because the situation there might prompt them to carry out fresh terrorist operations.

Shawqi al-Islambuli joined the Afghan mojahedin in the early 1980's after fleeing Egypt. He joined the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] led by Golboddin Hekmatyar and in Peshawar in 1988, established a center to train Egyptians on terrorist operations in Egypt.

On 3 December last year, Alexandria's Higher Military Court passed a death sentence against al-Islambuli, who is charged in connection with the case of the "Returnees from Afghanistan" Organization.

Prominent Afghan Commander Returns to Peshawar

BK0405132393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 May 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—Prominent Afghan Mojahedin commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani has returned here after a week-long visit to Azad Kashmir to meet Kashmiri mojahedin.

A press release said he met leaders of Hizbul Mojahedin, Harkatul Mojahedin, Jamiatul Mojahedin, Mujahid Force and other Kashmiri Mojahedin groups. It said he assured them of support from Afghan Mojahedin. Haqqani also held meetings with Mufti Mohammad Yunis of JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam], Azad Kashmir, Abdul Ghafoor Siddiqi and Qari Guizar Haqqani was accompanied by commander Dr Nasratullah, Maulvi Alaf Gul, Col Afzal and Major Fahim.

Hekmatyar: Afghans Will Take Part in Kashmir Movement

BK0405135593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 4 May 93 p 5

[Text] Muzaffarabad (KPI)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has assured Syed Salahuddin, Supreme Commander of Hezbul Mojahedin, that Afghan Mojahedin would soon take part in Kashmir movement so that they could support the Mojahedin against India. He also expressed his deep sorrow over the killing of Commander Maqbool Elahi.

He said Maqbool Elahi was one of his colleague who fought with Afghan Mojahedin in Afghanistan. He further said that Kashmiri Mujahedin along with Afghan Mojahedin have made various achievements in Afghan Jihad and prayed for the success of Kashmir movement.

Court Accepts Bail Plea of Four Libyans

BK0405134593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 May 93 p 3

[Text] The district and sessions judge, Fazaiur Rahman Monday accepted the bail application of four Libyan nationals arrested on charges of terrorism and car-lifting. The bail of their fifth companion was however, rejected.

The five accused were arrested by the Gul Bahar police recently, when four of them were traveling in a lifted vehicle. The fifth one was arrested by police along with a hand-grenade.

The court accepted the bail plea of Khalid, Kamal, Abu Qasim and Fatah on two personal sureties of one lakh rupees each. The application of the fifth accused, Muhammad was rejected.

Sri Lanka

Tension Grips Colombo Ahead of Premadasa Funeral

BK0505044293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0417 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 5 (AFP)—Tension mounted in Colombo Wednesday as thousands of minority Tamils fled the Sri Lankan capital ahead of the funeral of President Ranasinghe Premadasa who was killed by a suspected Tamil rebel, police said.

Constables and anti-riot squads were being brought in from the suburbs and provinces to avert a violent anti-Tamil backlash after Premadasa's state funeral here Thursday, a police officer said.

"There is a lot of tension and we are bringing thousands of men from outside (Colombo). Rumours are adding to the tension and we are very concerned about the situation," the officer said.

Police have raided a number of Tamil boarding houses here and picked up at least 20 young Tamil men for questioning, another officer said.

Premadasa, a Sinhalese from the majority community was blown to pieces in a suicide bombing carried out by a suspected rebel from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, who has been serving as acting president since Premadasa's death, moved Tuesday to calm fears of a backlash against the Tamil community.

The government had also declared Friday, the day after Premadasa's funeral, as a special holiday.

Pro-government Tamil groups said they had expressed fears of violent attacks against them and asked the authorities for stepped up security in areas of Colombo where Tamils are concentrated.

About 5,000 Tamils had packed their bags and fled the capital from Premadasa's home constituency of Keselwatte, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) said.

The Tamil exodus came as tens of thousands of mourners poured into Colombo to pay their last respects to Premadasa who is to be accorded a state funeral Thursday with full military honours.

Minister Warns of 'Sinister Campaign' To Mar Funeral

BK0505122493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 5 May 93

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 5 (AFP)—Tension mounted in the Sri Lankan capital Wednesday as the authorities warned of a "sinister campaign" to unleash violence to mar the funeral of assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa. [passage omitted]

"There is a sinister campaign being launched by interested parties to create panic in the city ... There will be attempts to provoke innocent people to violence," Minister of Housing Sirisena Cooray said in a statement.

Cooray did not say who was orchestrating the unrest. But police have warned of possible further Tiger suicide attacks and there has been friction between the ruling party and opposition since the April 23 murder of a top opposition leader.

Cooray, who is tipped to be a key figure in the new administration under acting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, announced that "every step will be taken to ensure that law and order is maintained."

"World leaders will be with us in this hour of grief. It is our duty to conduct ourselves in a manner appropriate to the occassion," Cooray said urging residents not to heed "scare stories." [passage omitted]

In a related development, the LTTE, which had denied involvement in the murder, ordered residents in areas under its control in northern Sri Lanka to put up white flags to mourn Premadasa's death.

"People travelling from the north say that white flags have been ordered by the Tigers. They are mourning Premadasa's death," a Tamil source said. Officials said they had similar reports from Tiger- controlled territory. [passage omitted]

State television broadcast live coverage of people walking past Premadasa's sealed coffin at the colonial-style Presidential Palace here as an interrupted flow of cars, buses, vans and trucks brought in more mourners to the city.

Men, women and schoolchildren joined the back of a more than mile-long queue of people waiting patiently in sweltering heat to pay their last respects to Premadasa.

Most grocery stores were open Wednesday despite it being a holiday to celebrate the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha. Shopkeepers reported panic buying. [passage omitted on foreign dignitaries to attend funeral]

DUNF Urges Public Help in Finding Leader's Killer

BK3004104293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0752 GMT 30 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—DUNF [Democratic United National Front] yesterday appealed to the public to help the investigators to identify the assassin of its leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

"Please pass on to the police whatever information you have and help identify the murderers", DUNF spokesman Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria said.

He said at the press conference held at DUNF deputy leader Gamini Dissnayake's Kollupitiya home that he had asked the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] to publish the description of the man whose body was found at Mugalan Mawatha on Saturday morning. "We thank the police for publishing a photograph in most of the newspapers. We appeal to the newspapers to repeat the photograph with the details. We also appeal to the newspapers to give a telephone number so that the public can contact them" he said.

He said the funeral procession on Wednesday was largely peaceful until tear gas was fired from an aircraft and

water boswers. "There were a few incidents which we tried our best to prevent. I must say the police acted with restraint", he said.

He blamed the use of tear gass especially inside kanatte [cremation site] for subsequent incidents. He said even if tear gas was used to control the crowd, it was excessive.

Dr. Weerasooria welcomed the decision of the Attorney General to assist the court in the Athulathmudali murder inquiry. He said police officers of whom the public is suspicious should be removed from the investigation team.

He said DUNF had asked for a meeting with the Scotland Yard officers. But they felt the Lankan officials woul do a fine job if they were permitted to carry on without interference.

DUNF would not hold May day meetings, but Mr. Gamini Dissanayake would address the joint May Day meeting of the opposition, he said.

DUNF had started the election campaign and would hold a meeting for each district with the final meeting in Colombo on 14 May, Dr. Weerasooria said.

Leaders To Attend Premadasa Funeral Listed

BK0405070293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0547 GMT 4 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—A number of foreign dignitaries will arrive in the island to participate in the funeral of late Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo states that the vice president of India, K.R. Narayanan, and Minister of State for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia will represent India.

Minister of Home Affairs Sher Bahadur Thapa, accompanied by Ambassador of Nepal to Sri Lanka based in Delhi, Lik Bahadur Shrestha, and Deputy Chief of Protocol Badri Prasad Khanal will be representing Nepal at the funeral.

Meanwhile, SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] will be represented by Secretary General of SAARC Ibrahim Hussain Zaki.

Earlier, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia and Prime Minister of Pakistan Balkh Sher Mazari informed their participation.

Industrial Exports Rise by 37 Percent in 1992

BK0105120693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] An economic growth rate of 4.3 percent, a sharp expansion in industrial exports, a favorable balance of payment position, and significant progress towards fiscal consolidation were among the highlights of Sri Lanka's economic performance in 1992. According to the Central Bank report for 1992 released yesterday, excessive monetary expansion and persistently high price (?charges) remained major areas of concern. Buoyed by rapidly expanding textile and garment sector the earnings from industrial exports rose by 37 percent during the year. The Central Bank report says that there was also significant progress towards fiscal consolidation with the budget deficit declining. The main growth sector in the economy last year had been the manufacturing and services sector. The output of the private sector industries increased by 20 percent—the highest rate of growth recorded since 1985. A 20 percent increase in export earnings was also recorded last year.

Annual Report Reviews 1992 Economic Growth

BK3004085793 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0619 GMT 30 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—An economic growth rate of 4.3 percent, sharp expansion in industrial exports, a favourable balance of payments position and significant progress towards fiscal consolidation were among the highlights of Sri Lanka's economic performance in 1992. However, excessive monetary expansion and persistently high price rises remained major areas of concern, states the annual report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in its annual report for 1992.

Despite a serious setback to agricultural production, the country posted a real growth rate of 4.3 percent in 1992, thus maintaining the growth momentum ushered in 1990. Buoyed by a rapidly expanding textile and garments sector, the earnings from industrial exports rose by 37 percent during the year. In the balance of payments, there was an overall surplus of SDR [special drawing rights] 129 million in 1992, the third successive year to record a surplus.

There was also significant progress towards fiscal consolidation with the budget deficit declining to 7.4 percent of GDP [gross domestic product] in 1992 from 11.6 percent in 1991. However, the year-on-year increase in money supply was 17 percent in 1992 while the annual average increase of consumer prices was 11.4 percent.

The GDP growth in 1992, though considerably lower than the growth rate of 6.2 percent recorded in 1990, was commendable considering the inhospitable international and domestic conditions facing the country. In the international scene, there was lingering recession in

many industrial countries which had a depressing impact on the demand for most primary commodities. On the domestic front, the prolonged drought that prevailed during the early part of the year caused agricultural production to decline. In this context, the 1992 growth performance, though moderate, underscores the strong resilience of the economy in the wake of the continued reforms and liberalisation efforts to promote economic growth and development.

An analysis of the sectoral growth performance has revealed that the main growth sectors in the economy in 1992 had been the manufacturing and services sectors. In contrast, the agricultural and mining sectors had recorded negative growth. Maintaining the growth momentum displayed in recent years, the manufacturing sector provided a strong impetus to economic growth in 1992 contributing over a third of the increase in GNP during the year. The manufacturing sector as a whole recorded a growth of 9 percent in real terms following the growth rate of 6.8 percent in 1991. Within the manufacturing sector, the value added in factory industry, the main component of which being the export oriented textiles and garments industry, expanded by 13 percent in real terms. The small industry sub-sector is estimated to have grown by 8 percent in 1992. The continued dynamism of the manufacturing sector in determining Sri Lanka's growth performance in recent years, underscores the growing structural changes that had occurred in the economy in response to economic reforms and liberalisation measures.

The services sector, the other major sector which contributed to maintain the growth momentum during 1992, expanded by 5 percent in 1992, compared with a growth rate of 6.2 percent in 1991. Within this sector, transport, communications, trade and banking and financial services, all recorded increased growth. The transport, storage and communications sector recorded a growth of 6 percent while the wholesale and retail trade sector posted an overall growth of 5.8 percent. The expansion in the wholesale and retail trade sector accounted for approximately 28 per cent of the total increase in GNP in 1992.